

COMMENT OF
THE DAY

Tax Certificates

WHEN, after the war, direct taxation was imposed in Hongkong, the Government introduced the pay-as-you-earn system for the benefit of those who had to meet salaries tax obligations. The plan went unheeded, though no compelling argument against its adoption was advanced at the time. Today, a modified sort of PAYE becomes operative in Hongkong—a concession which we welcome, but with reservations.

First criticism is that the values of the tax certificates are too high. The taxpayer is offered certificates at either \$95 or \$960 denominations which can hardly attract the average salaried man who is liable for taxation. If the value of the certificates were half these amounts, they would be more likely to serve the purpose for which they were designed.

PAY-AS-YOU-EARN is intended to permit painless payment of taxation dues, but a person will be required to accomplish some severe monthly rebudgeting if he is to be able to take advantage of the tax certificates now offered.

Our feeling is that as it now stands the issuance of tax certificates is a good idea, ruined by the ridiculously high values of the certificates. In fact why such a denomination as \$960 should be offered is beyond comprehension. Any person able to purchase certificates to that value is clearly of sufficient financial means to be independent of PAYE.

Since Government has seen fit to introduce a form of pay-as-you-earn, it must ensure that it is attractive and popular. We feel confident that the denominations now being offered will be anything but popular.

SECOND deplorable feature of the scheme as announced is also discernible. There is no official provision for the certificates to be made available to the public in Kowloon.

Government has announced that certificates will be on sale at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Chartered Bank, the Mercantile Bank and the Inland Revenue Department. This suggests that the certificates will be available only at the head offices of these banks, and of course the Inland Revenue Department, all of which are situated on the island.

If Kowloon residents are to be denied purchasing facilities on their side of the harbour, it will mean one of two things: either they must find time off from their work to buy their certificates, or they must make a special trip to the island for the purpose. And the second alternative means the cost of the journey will wipe out the interest which their certificates are promised to bear.

Surely the post offices could be included among the authorised dealers in tax certificates? If they were available at all branch offices the public would be offered a service to which they are in any case entitled. We urge the authorities to apply these revisions to the tax certificates system, thereby making it really beneficial to the taxpayers.

WIRED TV FOR HK THIS YEAR

FRENCH ELECTIONS

Mendes-France & Faure In Neck & Neck Race

Paris, Jan. 3.

Premier Edgar Faure's Centre Front and Pierre Mendes-France's Republican Front ran neck and neck in the French General Elections early today, but a dark horse protesting against tax laws threatened a major upheaval in French politics.

Pierre Poujade's Extreme Rightists began creeping up on the front-running Faure and Mendes-France.

The 34-year-old, small-town shopkeeper would become one of the major figures in French politics if the trend continued.

The Communists also were sniffing many new seats, but that was expected. Their opposition was more divided than during the 1951 election.

Outgoing Premier Faure declared tonight that it was still too early to interpret the French election results.

The Premier, smiling, met the press and posed for still, newsreel, and TV cameras for about 10 minutes.

M. Faure's brief statement, made at midnight Paris time, was as follows:

"I am happy to be with you, but I can not yet give you complete results. I've just learned of the initial results. And so I have sent my congratulations to M. Maurice Faure (Radical Socialist) and M. Henri Dorcy (MRP), who have just been elected in the 1st and 2nd Belor Districts. I can not yet give you an interpretation of the partial results. As in an examination, we must wait for the end."

REDS GAIN SEAT

The first complete results from a French department—the territory of Belfort—showed a gain by the Communists of one seat, which was lost by the Socialist Republicans (ex-Gaullists).

The Popular Republicans (MRP) kept their single seat in this department.

The Communists, allied with a group known as the Independent Radical Federation, increased their popular vote from 10,818 in 1951 to 17,693 and this won one of the department's two seats.

The MRP won 12,059 votes against 9,240 in the last elections.

The Socialist Republicans, whose parliamentary group leader Raymond Schmittein was running in this department, had 10,776, compared with their 11,674 total in 1951, and lost their seat.

NOT ENOUGH

The Socialists increased their popular vote from 6,373 to 8,918 but it was not enough to win a seat.

The total popular vote increased from 40,269 to 48,982.

Meanwhile, results show that former French Premier Paul Reynaud was today re-elected to the National Assembly from the Nord Department of France.

The French Foreign Minister, M. Antoine Pinay (Independent) was re-elected to the National Assembly from the Loire Department of France.

Former Premier and Foreign Minister Robert Schuman was re-elected to his seat from the Moselle department.

M. Schuman is a leader of the Popular Republican Movement (UP) and father of the six-nation European Coal and Steel Pool.

M. Schuman is Justice Minister in the outgoing Government. —United Press and France-Press.

Election Sidelights

Rioting In Africa

Brazzaville, Jan. 2.

At least 26 Africans, including six policemen, were reported to be wounded in the Election Day riots that broke out in the suburbs of Brazzaville, in French Equatorial Africa today.

According to earlier estimates, two Africans were thought to have lost their lives, but the latest police reports stated that there were no fatal casualties. It was stated, however, that many rioters were dragged into hiding after being knifed or stoned by their opponents, and that it might be some time the full list of casualties was known.

The riots broke out this morning when Lorr tribesmen supporters of an African priest Abbe Fulbert Youlou who is standing in an election candidate, attempted in the Bacoogo suburb of Brazzaville.

The situation was quiet late tonight. —France-Press.

EXCITED VOTER

In Morlaix (Britanny), an excited Frenchman, who became a father for the third time early this morning, put his son's birth certificate in the ballot box by mistake, instead of his voting slip.

The authorities said that he would have to wait until the votes were counted before he could retrieve the certificate. —France-Press.

STOP PRESS

Latest Official Results

Paris, Jan. 3.

The French Ministry of the Interior today issued its first official results in the national elections as follows:

Government coalition 111 (Moderates 59, MRP 46, Faure Group 6).

Republican Front 84 (Socialists 50, Radical 24, UDSR 3 and other leftists 1).

Communists 89.

Poujadistes 25.

Social Republicans (ex-Gaullists) 8.

Total seats tallied—317. —France-Press.

New Year Tragedy

Stockholm, Jan. 2.

Count Gustav Frederik von Rosen, 61-year-old Swedish organizer of the home-riding section of this year's Olympic Games, today shot his sleeping wife, son and daughter, and then committed suicide.

Count von Rosen, who was from 1930 to 1948 military attache in Washington, London and Copenhagen was Vice-President of the Swedish Federation for equestrian sports.

He lived in retirement in a villa at Sodertorn, near Stockholm. —France-Press.

Masked Men Raid Night Club

Chicago, Jan. 2.

Officials of the swank Chez Paree night club, victim of a daring New Year's Day robbery, tried to figure out today how much their customers spent welcoming in the New Year.

The four masked bandits got only \$5,000, but they also took the stacks of tabs signed by most of the night club's patrons. The club's four owners said they only hope of discovering how much money they took in was through a check of the cash registers.

They were still at a loss to figure out which merrymakers should be billed for how much.

The bandits entered the club at about 8 a.m., shortly after 600 persons had celebrated New Year's Eve at some of the fanciest prices in Chicago.

FACES COVERED

The gunmen, their faces covered by handkerchiefs, forced a Pinkerton detective to take them upstairs in a lift to the dining room where employees were counting the receipts.

About 12 employees were herded into the private Gold Key club room where they were bound with wire and adhesive tape. One of the employees, who suffers from a heart condition, fainted twice.

The bandits then scooped up the \$5,000 lying on a table and forced employees to open a safe containing their tips for the night. They also collected the tabs and checks which had been signed by patrons in payment for the night's revelry.

Club officials explained that there was only \$5,000 on the premises because many patrons had private accounts with the club.

The bandits also ripped a one-ton safe from the wall of the Gold Key and carried it away. The employees suggested to tell them it had been empty for years. —United Press.

Murderer Dramatically Reprieved

London, Jan. 2.

The British Home Secretary, Major Gwilym Lloyd George, tonight granted a dramatic reprieve to a convicted baby murderer only 48 hours after refusing to do so.

The Home Secretary reprieved 28-year-old T. Bancroft from hanging tomorrow at Strangeways gaol, Manchester, and announced that he had decided to recommend the commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment.

Urgent last-minute representations on Bancroft's behalf had persuaded Major Lloyd George to change his mind on the eve of the man's scheduled execution.

This was the third reprieve to be recommended by the Home Secretary since Saturday.

LOST HIS TEMPER

Bancroft, father of two young children, was sentenced to death at Manchester Assizes on December 1 for the murder of a baby he was minding for neighbours.

He pleaded not guilty to murder and said his temper had got the better of him when trying to quieten the five-month-old baby.

On Saturday the Home Secretary announced reprieves for 22-year-old John Berry, a salesman sentenced to death for the murder of his 21-month-old son, and for 42-year-old Adam Nuttall, a labourer who murdered his wife.

But Major Lloyd George then said he had decided there were insufficient grounds to justify his recommending any interference with the due course of the law in the case of Bancroft. —China Mail Special.

13 Soldiers Missing

Algiers, Jan. 2.

Thirteen French soldiers were reported missing today after a large band of outlaws last night attacked two French army outposts near St. Pierre Paul some 20 miles from Algiers.

The body of a French soldier was found some five miles from the site of the attack.

Military authorities in Algiers said that one of the outposts managed to hold off the outlaws, wounding and taking prisoner one of the attackers.

The other outpost was completely overwhelmed by the rebel attack. The 13 soldiers, including one officer, holding the outpost are missing.

Security forces immediately began operations against the large outlaw band, the authorities said.

The outlaws who took part in the attack have been arrested so far. —France-Press.

Rediffusion Project Announced

DEMONSTRATION TO PRESS

RESIDENTS OF THE COLONY MAY BE ABLE TO WATCH LOCAL EVENTS THROUGH WIRED VISION, INSTEAD OF ONLY LISTENING TO THEM, TOWARDS THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR.

Rediffusion (Hongkong) Ltd has been reconstructing its entire network since last November and the cable erection project will be completed by the end of June.

The question of the cost to a subscriber for a wired vision set is at the moment premature, but it is expected to be reasonable.

This information was disclosed by Mr W. A. Whiting, Managing Director of Rediffusion, at a Press conference held at Rediffusion's studios, Arsenal Street, this morning.

Mr Whiting read the following statement:

The introduction of wired vision into Hongkong, by which residents in their own homes may watch local public functions and sporting events, studio productions and moving picture films may become a possibility this year through the enterprise and experience of Rediffusion. During the past two months Rediffusion has been conducting a series of technical experiments to determine the practical possibilities of providing a wired vision service for subscribers throughout the Colony.

Although Rediffusion has been serving the public here for nearly seven years with audio programmes in Chinese and English, this new development in public entertainment comes to Hongkong as the result of this British company's successful introduction of wired vision programmes in many parts of the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth.

Early in 1954 it became evident to the management of Rediffusion, Hongkong, that the network of lines carrying sound programmes to subscribers should be expanded to provide additional channels on which it was planned to offer an alternate choice of programme to Chinese listeners. In deciding to provide a third audio programme careful consideration had to be given to the type of cable required.

Special Cable

In anticipation of a public demand for a vision service here, the Rediffusion management considered it prudent to lay plans for the complete reconstruction of the existing network by the addition of a specially designed cable capable of carrying both vision and audio signals. This plan involves the erection of more than one million yards of cable to distribute interference-free and non-radiating signals to all parts of the colony presently served by Rediffusion.

This tremendous task of reconstruction of the entire Rediffusion network has been proceeding smoothly since early November, and it is expected that the cable erection project will be completed by the end of June this year.

Through its association with Rediffusion companies in the United Kingdom and other parts of the Commonwealth where wired vision services are operated, the local Rediffusion company is drawing upon the unique experience and practical resources available for any development in this field that may be required in Hongkong. Rediffusion "know how" in the field of wired vision will now be available in this Colony.

Expert To Help

To assist in the development of this wired vision experiments Rediffusion has engaged the services of Mr F. S. Coote, retiring Divisional Manager for East of Cable & Wireless, Ltd., who, when he has returned from leave will be available as Technical Consultant.

Senior Rediffusion technicians have recently completed a course of technical studies in the United Kingdom and now, in Hongkong, they are carrying out daily experiments at Rediffusion House. During the next few weeks these experiments will be extended to include the dissemination of pictures over a closed wire circuit on certain sections of the newly reconstructed network.

These highly experienced technicians include Mr A. C. Lochie, for many years the

work Engineer, who is responsible for the great task of network reconstruction; Col. J. Stuart-Usher, formerly Chief Signals Officer, Land Forces, Hongkong, prior to his recent retirement, who is responsible for the co-ordination of the wired vision experiments; Mr A. T. B. Bardens, AMIEE, M. Brit. I.R.E., who has had considerable experience recently in connection with the introduction of commercial TV in the United Kingdom, with Associated Rediffusion, Ltd., and who has been seconded to Rediffusion, Hongkong, to install the necessary experimental vision equipment.

In addition, Mr Gordon H. Reed, Senior Technician with Television Research, Ltd., an associated Rediffusion company operating in Jersey, Channel Islands, has also been seconded to Hongkong for these experiments and to give technical instruction to local Chinese engineers.

Wire Signal

Here in Hongkong where there are exceptionally crowded conditions, motor vehicles, electrically operated transport, industrial and domestic electrical equipment, and possibly more electric signs than in any other community of a similar size in the world, the incidence of electrical interference to any vision signal, would be extremely high, except when disseminated over a closed-wire circuit. The fully terrain of the colony presents a further obstacle to the clear reception of a vision signal by any other means than by wire.

When the development upon which Rediffusion (Hongkong) Ltd. is now engaging is completed there will be available for this colony a sound and vision network as modern as any in existence in the United Kingdom today, where Rediffusion subscribers enjoy both sound and vision service, free from interference.

The conference was held in the auditorium outside the Managing Director's office. Also

present were Mr Roy Dundon, Controller of Programmes, and Major K. C. Harvey, public relations consultant.

Mr Whiting made his statement inside one of the studios with the wired vision camera focused on him. The Pressmen saw and heard him speaking on the diagonal screen of the video set in the auditorium, which was darkened.

The statement was translated into Chinese by Mr Ramon Woon, chief news editor of Rediffusion, through the same medium.

Police HQ Picture

A scene of the entrance of the Police headquarters in Arsenal Street, about 100 yards away, then appeared on the screen.

Addressing the newsmen in person, Mr Whiting said the camera was then being focused at the Police headquarters building from a position at the back of the Rediffusion building. Answering a question, Mr Whiting said that the type of screen on the wired vision set was known as a "17-inch diagonal".

Asked where the set would be manufactured, he said they would be made by an associated company of Rediffusion in England.

Mr Whiting was asked as to what the cost of such a set would be to the subscriber. He replied that that matter was still premature.

He explained that the whole thing was in the experimental stage at the moment and that commercial considerations would have to be dealt with by the company at a later time.

Mr Whiting said he expected that the cost for use of a wired vision set would be fairly reasonable to the people of Hongkong.

The reporters were then shown the apparatus of the wired vision camera, still focused through a window onto the Police headquarters gate, with people and vehicles moving in and out.

SUNDAY EXPRESS

Baby Book

Here it is... the book that gives complete information on the care of the baby and small child from the prenatal period through to the sixth year... detailed advice on Routines, Menus, Recipes, Training, First Aid... Complete Record Section from Birth to the twelfth Year.

Illustrated by over 300 "how-to" photographs and drawings, some in two colours.

240 pages. Packed in attractive gift box.

\$25.00

Obtainable only at South China Morning Post
Wyndham Street, Hong Kong & Salisbury Road, Kowloon

BRITISH AVIATION SUFFERS HEAVY BLOW

London, Jan. 2.

British aviation suffered another blow today with the surprise decision by the Italian National Airline (Linee Italiane) not to buy the new Bristol Britannia.

Teached a "stake of advanced detail."

The Italians were expected to place immediate orders for three Britannias.

The company could give no official reason for the decision. But rumors from Rome say that Transworld Airlines, which owns a 40 per cent interest in the Italian line, had strongly

advised purchase of either Douglas or Lockheed aircraft.

The Britannia—expected to be economical, quiet and the last word in comfort—is Britain's biggest aviation hope.

Experts hope that it will make up in comfort and economy what it will lose to the new American jet airplanes in speed. —London Express Service.

KING'S PRINCESS

TO-DAY

CINEMASCOPE

THE EXCITING TRUE
LIFE STORY OFAUDIE MURPHY
AMERICA'S MOST
DECORATED HERO!

A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

ROXY & BROADWAY

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY

Owing to length of picture please note change of times:
AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.30 & 9.40 P.M.HERE COMES THE SAGA OF THE TALL MEN
AND THE WOMEN WHO LOVED THEM!

CLARK GABLE JANE RUSSELL ROBERT RYAN

THE TALL MEN

OPENS TO-MORROW

BLACKMAIL!

As lurid as the
scandals the
blackmail
held over them
...as deadly
as the bullet
one of them
fired!HOUSE OF
BLACKMAILWILLIAM SYLVESTER & MARY GERMAINE
Directed by 20th Century-Fox

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

COMING VERY SOON

THE GIRL IN
THE RED VELVET
SWING

CINEMASCOPE

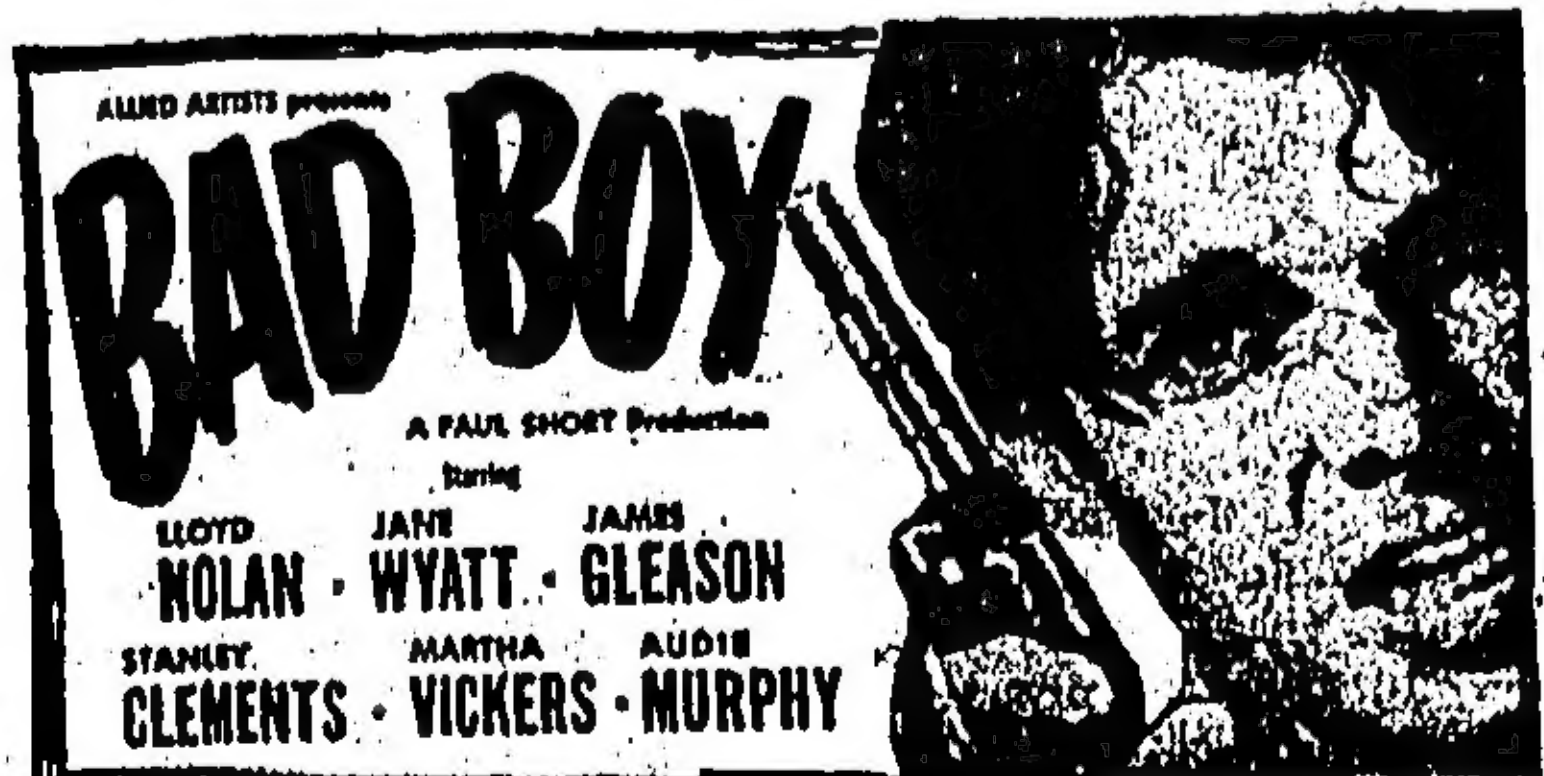
RAY MILLAND-JOAN COLLINS-FARLEY GRANGER
Produced by CHARLES BRACKETT - In the words of STEREOPHONIC SOUND

EMPIRE

From the 1st of January 1956 we are introducing
for the benefit of our patrons these popular
mission prices to all shows:—

Front Stalls	\$0.70	Dress Circle Back	\$2.40
Back Stalls	1.20	Dress Circle	3.00
Stadium Seats	1.70	Lodge Seats	3.50

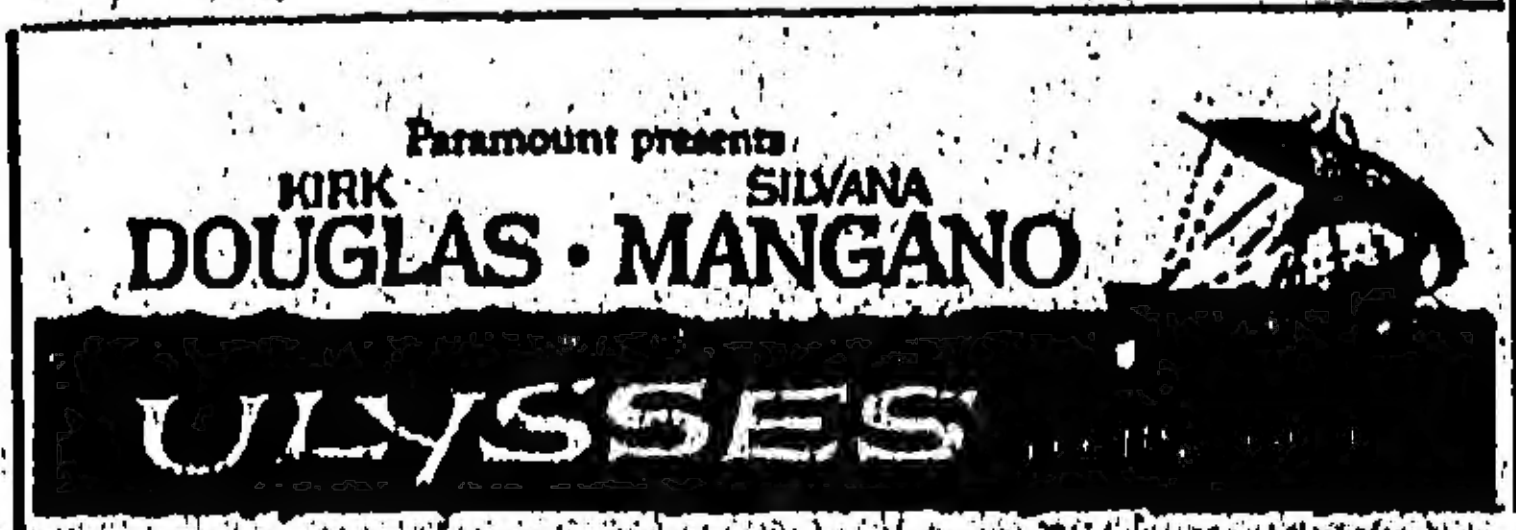
Final To-day At 2.30 & 5.30 p.m. 2 Shows Only



BAD BOY

LLOYD NOLAN JANE WYATT JAMES GLEASON
STANLEY CLEMENTS VICKERS MURPHY

COMMENCING TO-MORROW



KIRK DOUGLAS SILVANA MANGANO

ULYSSES

COUNTER TO ARAB REARMAMENT DRIVE
ISRAEL TO BUILD UP
ARMY

Jerusalem, Israel, Jan. 2.

The Premier of Israel, Mr David Ben Gurion, announced today that national service in the Israeli Army would be extended to meet the danger of attack from the re-arming Arab nations, particularly Egypt.

He told the Knesset (parliament) in a foreign policy and defence speech, that Israel faced attack by Egypt and possibly other nations and warned of the "pernicious objective of the flow of Soviet arms to Egypt, which are being constantly augmented by a flow of British arms."

These arms were intended only and exclusively for an attack against Israel, he said, as "no man in his senses will believe Nasser (Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Egyptian Premier) might use Soviet or British arms for war against the East."

Mr Ben Gurion, who is also Minister of Defence, added: "There is one certain method which can prevent war in the Middle East with all its grave results for the whole world—the speedy supply of defensive arms to Israel of the same kind supplied to the Egyptian air, land and sea forces."

To The Limit

The period of national service in the Israeli Army, he said, would be increased from its present two-and-a-half years to three-and-a-half.

The Premier said: "We will be gravely at fault... if we do not prepare to defend ourselves in good time and to the limit."

At the same time he said it would be a grievous error to assume that war against Israel was "unavoidable and pre-determined."

If Israel's borders or citizens were attacked, Israel would appeal to United Nations observers to rectify the situation. But he said, "If they do not succeed—whether because of lack of power or lack of will—we consider it our duty to use the most effective means for the defence of the lives of our citizens and the security of our frontiers."

The whole Cabinet, he said, was firmly opposed to a war initiated by Israel but it rears and attacks continued on Israel, she would retaliate.

Another Point

Declaring that this country was subjected to constant security dangers, Mr Ben Gurion said: "I know that no British or Soviet or American ruler would tolerate planned and continuous murders of his citizens by gangs organised by a neighbouring government for the purpose of sabotage, assassination and frontier violations."

At another point he said Egypt's conduct, especially during the past year, had proved beyond doubt that she was not aiming at peace.

Major-General E. L. M. Burns, Chief of Staff of the United Nations truce supervision organisation, he said, had admitted "with regret and consternation" that Egypt had not given an undertaking to observe an absolute ceasefire or to implement proposals for a frontier demilitarised zone.

As to the comparative strength of the Israeli and Arab armies, the Premier said the Czechoslovak arms deal had in recent months transformed the situation in a grave and dangerous manner.

The Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr Moshe Sharett, joined the

Premier in demanding arms from the West to balance the supplies going to the Arabs. He blamed the West and the East for the present Middle East arms race and said Soviet arms to the Arabs were a threat to Israel and peace in the region.

Opposed To Pact

Mr Ben Gurion exhorted the nation to raise 50,000,000 Israeli pounds (about 10,000,000 pounds sterling) as a voluntary contribution to the arms fund and appealed to Jewish communities abroad to come to Israel's aid.

He denied rumours that the Israeli Army was acting on its own initiative. "The Army was an executive arm of the Government. It did not work independently and never would."

Mr Sharett following the Premier with a foreign policy statement devoted the beginning of it to an attack on the Soviet Union for the supply of arms to Egypt.

Mr Sharett reiterated Israel's opposition to the Baghdad Pact and warned against any attempt to bring Jordan into it.

Talks were now in progress between Israel and the United States on the possibility of an Arab-Israeli settlement, he said.

One-sided

There had been a dispute between Britain and Israel following proposals by Sir Anthony Eden, the British Prime Minister, who had disqualified Britain from acting as mediator by proposing a reversion to the United Nations resolution of 1947, he declared. This meant trying to fix in advance the nature of a settlement by tilting the scale in the Arabs' favour.

Israel was not prepared "in any circumstances to make one-sided territorial concessions of any kind nor to return and resettle Arab refugees."

Israel was ready for settlement with the Arabs based on direct negotiations but with no pre-conditions.—Reuter.

CAMPAIGN
FOR FINN
PRESIDENT

Helsinki, Jan. 2.

Party posters were pasted up across Finland today as the campaign to elect a new President opened.

All parties have nominated candidates, who include the Prime Minister.

The President will be chosen on February 15 by 300 electors. These electors will be chosen in a public poll held on January 16 and 17.

The new President will succeed Mr Juho Paasikivi, who was elected in 1946 and re-elected in 1950 until March, 1956.

Candidates

Candidates are: The Prime Minister, M. Urho Kekkonen (Agrarian Party); the Speaker of the Diet (Parliament), Mr Karl Fogelholm (Social Democrat); the Finnish Ambassador in London, Mr Sakari Tuomioja (Conservative); a member of Parliament, Mr Eino Kluop (People's Democrats); the Mayor of Helsinki, Mr Eero Rydman (Finnish People's Party) and a company director, Mr Ralf Toornen (Swedish People's Party—representing the Swedish minority in Finland).—Reuter.



Young German Journalists Dagmar Bernstorff and Hans-Dieter Ebelier are seen displaying to an air hostess the flags and insignia of all nations painted on their motor scooter, when they arrived in Frankfurt by plane last week after a 37-month tour of the world. They covered more than 60,000 miles, 34,000 of them on the scooter. During their tour they visited Hongkong.—London Express Photo.

Now He's "Grand Seigneur"

Churchill Accepts
Hudson's Bay Co
Appointment

London, Jan. 2.

The Hudson's Bay Company, the famous fur trading organisation founded 285 years ago, announced tonight that Sir Winston Churchill has accepted an honorary appointment which has been specially created for him. He is to be the company's Grand Seigneur.

Sir Winston's full title, linking him with some of the greatest pioneers and explorers in Canadian history, will be "Grand Seigneur of the Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay." This is a reminder of the full name of the company, under which it was incorporated in 1670 by Royal Charter of King Charles the Second.

In their announcement the governor and committee of the Hudson's Bay Company said: "This office has been created by the Board of the Hudson's Bay Company in order to do honour to the greatest living statesman and to renew the company's link with the illustrious name of Churchill."

Fur Post

The statement recalled that Sir Winston Churchill's ancestor, John Churchill, later first Duke of Marlborough, became the third governor of the company in 1685, holding the post for seven years.

The fur post of Churchill, earlier called Fort Prince of Wales, was renamed in his honour and is now the flourish-

ing post and terminus on the Hudson's Bay railway in Canada.

Founded by Prince Rupert and 17 other gentlemen, the company has traded continuously in Canada since King Charles granted the original "adventurers" a monopoly of the trade of all lands watered by streams flowing into Hudson's Bay. This involved nine and a half million square miles of territory which was called "Rupert's Land" till it was surrendered to the Canadian Government in 1870.

Many of the towns of Western and Central Canada have grown up round the company's trading posts, and its activities made London the fur centre of the world.—Reuter.

Clergyman Cleared Of Criticism
Following Appeal To The Queen

London, Jan. 2.

AN Anglican clergyman now in Australia declared today that following a personal appeal to the Queen, Britain's Army Council had cleared him of criticism of his services as a chaplain in Northern Ireland and Germany.

He is Rev. J. P. Stevenson, former Senior Army Chaplain at Larkhill Camp, Salisbury Plain, and now rector of Rockingham, Western Australia.

Mr Stevenson made his declaration in a press statement. In his appeal to the Queen he alleged that a senior officer accused him of "doing irreparable harm to the church" at Larkhill and in Northern Ireland and Hamburg between 1948 and 1954.

Mr Stevenson quoted a letter sent to him by the War Office "The Army Council," says the War Office letter, "perused the confidential reports made to you during your services

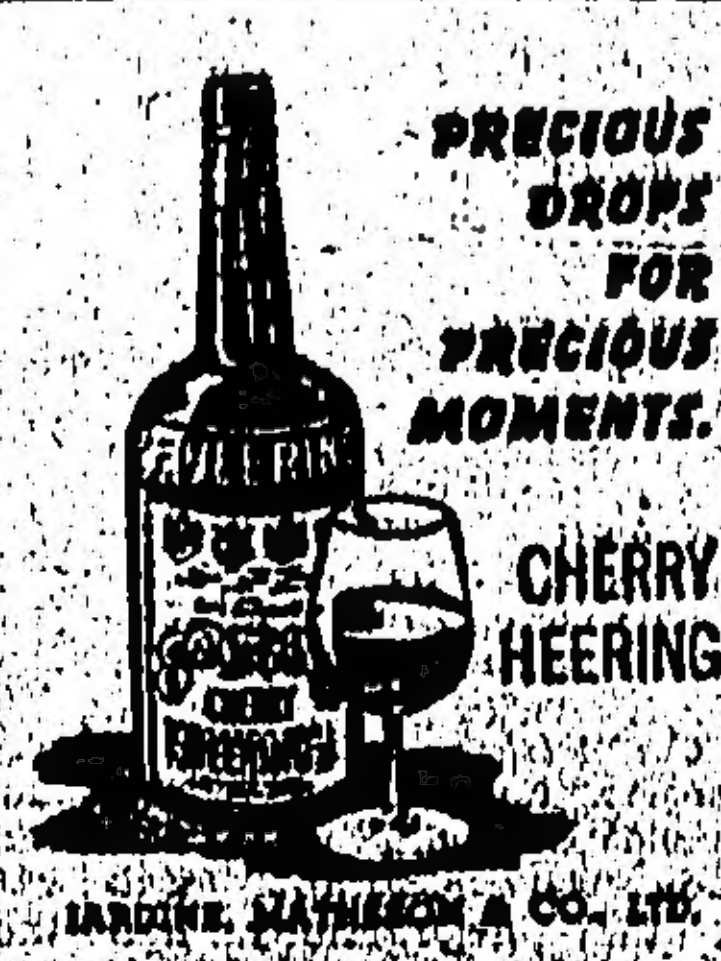
in both Northern Ireland and Germany and are pleased to be able to say that they found nothing in them to give grounds for any criticism of your services in either of those countries."

Mr Stevenson in March last year complained to Mr Tom Driberg, then a Labour member of Parliament, about alleged extravagant expenditure at a cocktail party in

Packway officers mess at Larkhill. Arising out of the complaint Mr Driberg raised an issue of privilege in the House of Commons.

For Mr Stevenson alleged that pressure to withdraw the complaint was brought to bear on him by Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General for the Salisbury Plain district, the Rev. J. A. Hodgins.—China Mail Special.

POP



QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

— SHOWING TO-DAY —



Distributed by United French Film Ltd WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

NEW YORK GREAT WORLD

CAUSEWAY BAY TEL 78721

KOWLOON TEL 93800

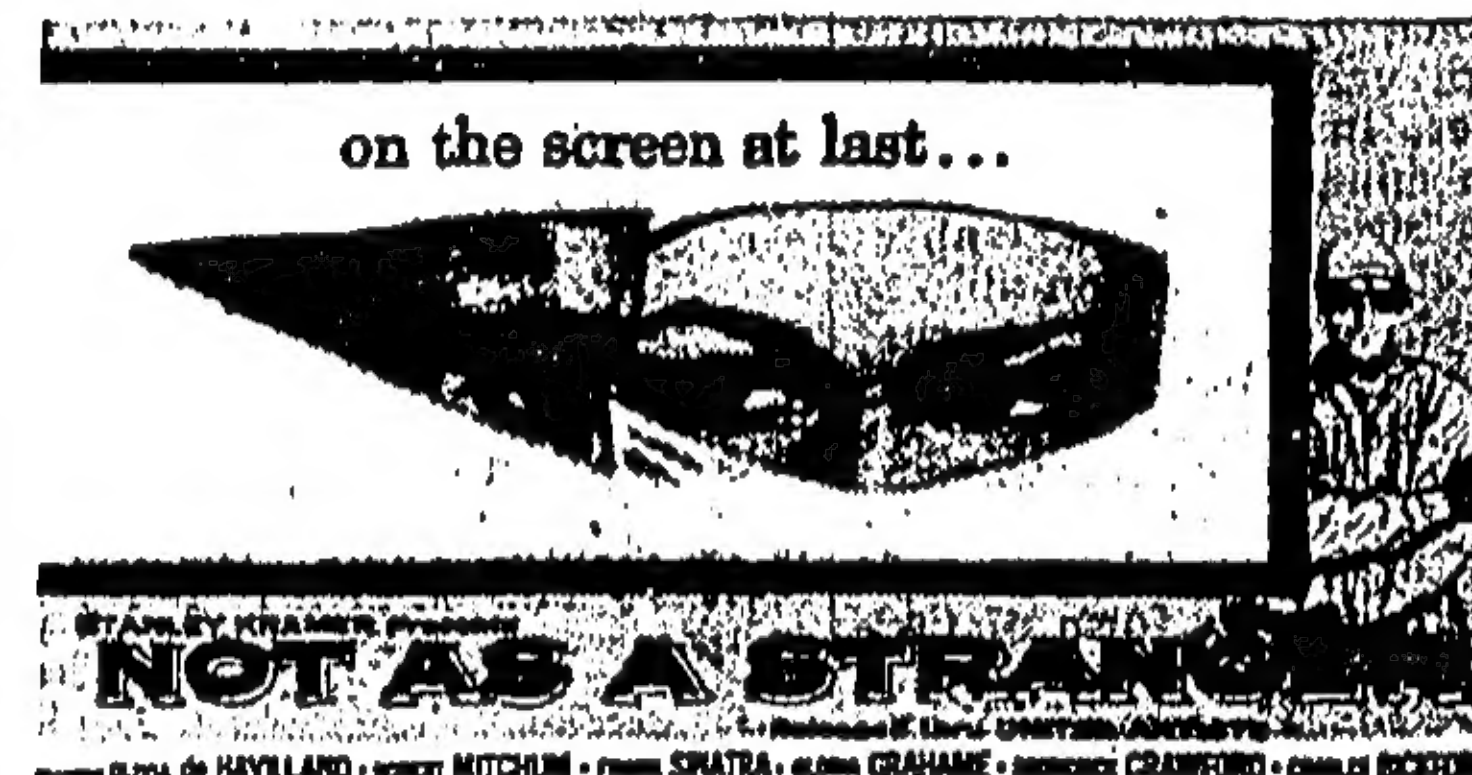
SHOWING TO-DAY

At 2.30, 5.30 (GREAT WORLD at 5.15)
7.30 & 9.30 p.m.The Academy Award Winner at his
Best Since "The Lost Weekend"
and "Dial M For Murder"!

GREAT WORLD Added Attraction at 2.30, 5.15 & 9.30 p.m.

"THE RIVAL WORLD" A Shall Film Unit Production
in Eastmancolor

— NEXT CHANGE —



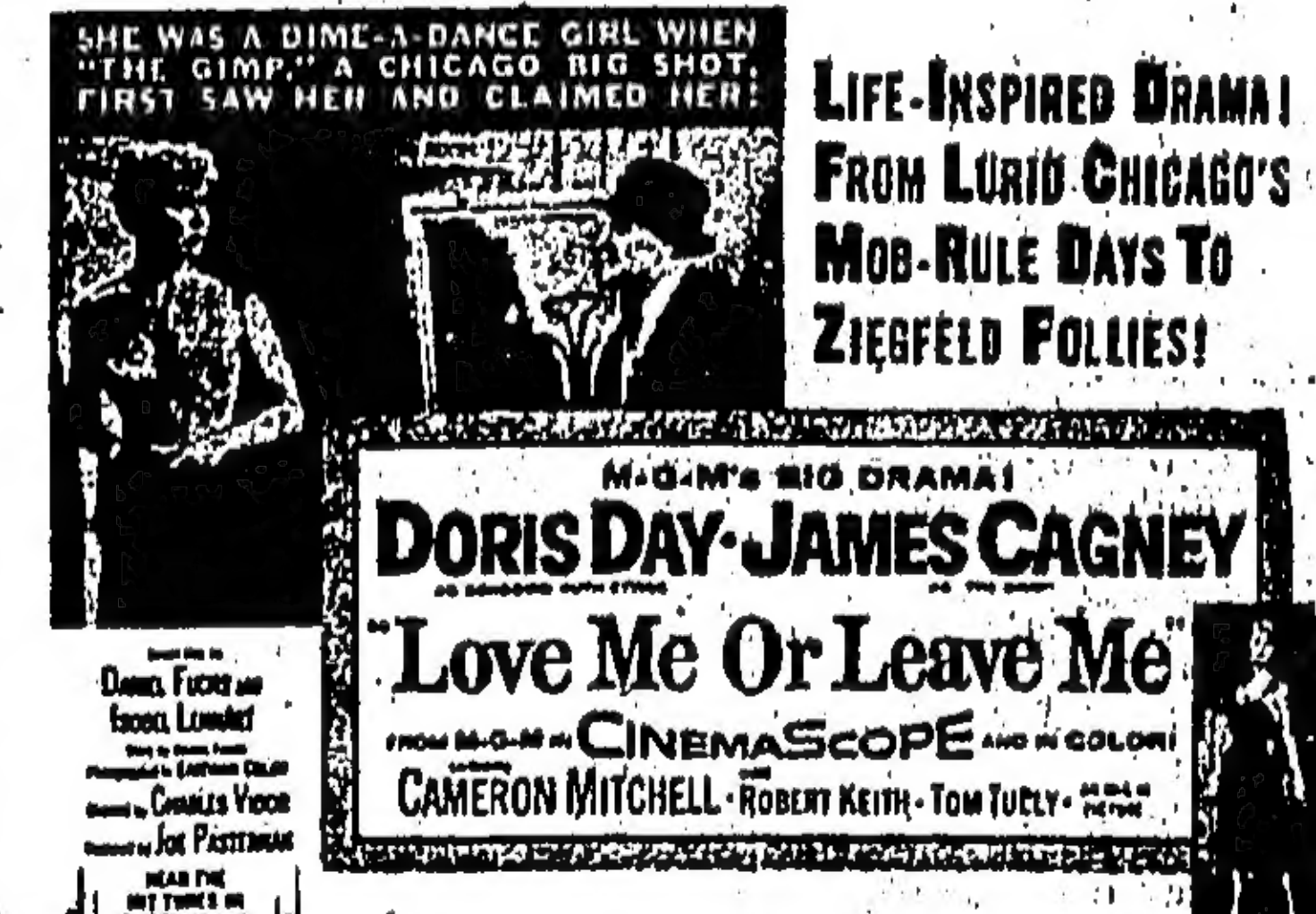
HOOVER : LIBERTY

CAUSEWAY BAY TEL 72371

KOWLOON TEL 60148, 60249

— NOW PLAYING —

AT 2.30, 5.00, 7.20 & 9.40 P.M.

ORIENTAL
AIR CONDITIONED

4-Track Directional Stereophonic Sound—Wide Screen!

SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30
& 9.30 P.M.

Labour Bid For Middle East Talks

Please Pass
The Blearb

This Hat Auctioned



Maurice Chevalier

Paris, Jan. 2. French singer and composer Charles Trenet has won possession of the straw hat used by Maurice Chevalier in presenting the song, "Ma Pomme" for 200,000 francs (US\$670), the organisers of a charity auction said here today.

The auction was held on December 22 for the benefit of aged veterans of the French music halls and circuses. —France-Press.

PRINCESS MAY GO TO TYROL

Innsbruck, Jan. 2. Rumours that Princess Margaret will come to the Tyrol for a skiing holiday have gained such strength that photographers have poured into hotels in Seefeld asking for permission to take pictures of "the royal party" will occupy.

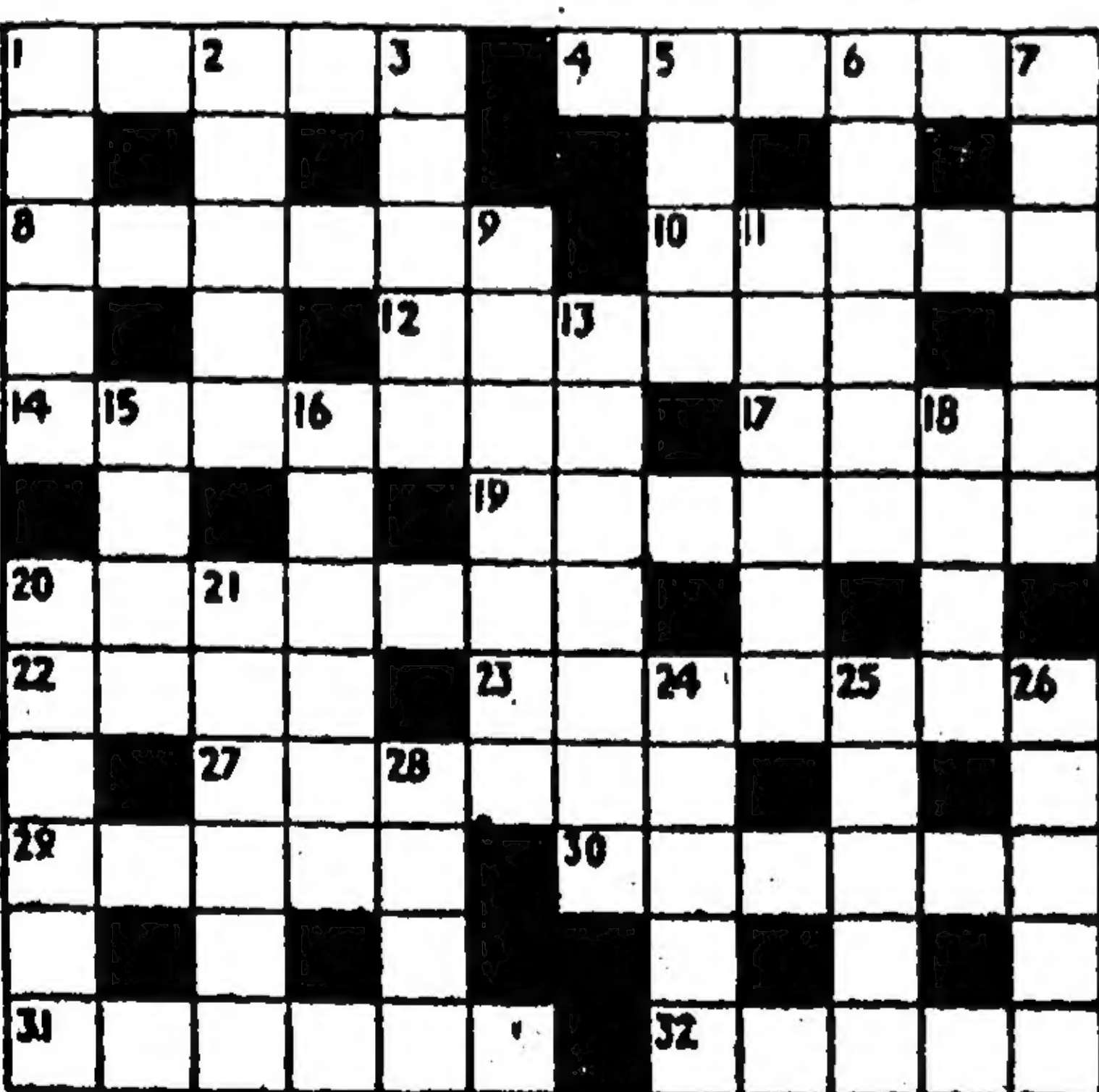
Dr Werner Karoly head of the Tyrol Tourist Department, said the rumours started after his department received a telephone call from London in mid-December. The caller asked for rooms "in a place where there is good skiing and plenty of amusement" for a party of 14 persons headed by "a high personage of a European royal family."

Knew Nothing

Dr Karoly said he knew nothing of a visit by Princess Margaret. After the London call he had booked 10 rooms in a Seefeld hotel for three weeks from February 6.

Newspapers in Britain, America, Germany and Switzerland have made dozens of telephone calls a day asking for information on "Princess Margaret's visit." —Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
1 Sheen (5).
4 Worry (6).
8 Joined (5).
10 Attempt (5).
12 Freebooter (6).
14 Table support (7).
17 Poker stake (4).
19 Warded off (7).
20 Sir (7).
22 Torn (4).
23 Effacing (7).
27 Offer (6).
29 Conscious of (5).
30 Console (6).
31 Gerb (6).
32 Representative (5).

DOWN
1 Haggard (5).
2 Express a view (5).
3 Slumbered (5).
5 Extent (4).
6 Designated (6).
9 Swelled (7).
11 Begins (6).
13 Venerate (7).
15 Anger (4).
16 Game dog (6).
18 Bird (4).
20 Unbroken (6).
21 Scent (6).
23 Foolish (6).
26 Visitor (5).
28 Close to (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: 3 Molasses, 5 Eepy, 9 Meditate, 11 Ordained, 13 Spot, 15 Spilt, 18 Rarities, 19 Plan, 21 Released, 25 Corridor, 26 Calm, 27 Bleathy, Down: 1 Peco, 2 Ape, 4 Omen, 5 Amid, 6 Swamp, 7 Scent, 9 Miser, 10 Demur, 12 Royal, 14 Oases, 16 Fated, 17 Liner, 18 Pick, 20 Agree, 21 Rill, 22 Loch, 23 Swan, 24 Damp.

Talks PROPOSAL TURNED DOWN BY PRIME MINISTER

London, Jan. 2.

Sir Anthony Eden tonight turned down a Labour opposition proposal that the Western powers should now invite Russia to join them in efforts to keep peace in the Middle East.

The Prime Minister took this stand in a private meeting tonight with Labour leaders headed by Mr Hugh Gaitskell, the party chief who had called to discuss with him the Middle East and particularly the traffic in British surplus war materials reaching that part of the world.

According to an official statement issued after the two-hour meeting at 10 Downing Street Mr Gaitskell suggested that a new approach to Russia should be made asking for her co-operation in seeking to preserve peace between Israel and the Arab states.

The Prime Minister drew attention to what he had said in Parliament just before Christmas on this subject.

Fierce Outcry

Referring to the recent Czech-Egyptian arms deal he told the House of Commons on December 12 he did not think there would be "any useful purpose" in discussing the Middle East arms situation with the Russians unless there was a change in the Soviet attitude.

The Eden-Gaitskell meeting came two hours after Sir Anthony himself issued a statement seen as a bid to stop old British tanks going to the Middle East—an issue now causing fierce political outcry here.

He announced that export of scrapped war material would be banned except to countries whose governments guaranteed it would not be reconverted into weapons and re-exported. Sir Anthony told the Labour delegation that he would consider their request that Parliament now on Christmas holiday until January 24—should discuss the surplus arms issue before he and Mr Selwyn Lloyd, the Foreign Secretary, leave for their Washington talks with President Eisenhower at the end of this month.

Assurance

If necessary Parliament should be recalled for this Mr Gaitskell urged. Sir Anthony reaffirmed in the official statement "his determination to continue to do all in his power to preserve

a balance between Israel and her Arab neighbour." The statement disclosing this assurance came after the Labour leaders had urged Sir Anthony to take up with the United States and France the question of how properly to implement the 1950 declaration "so as to provide an effective deterrent to aggression."

Invitation

Sir Anthony also said that Middle East problems would no doubt be discussed during the forthcoming Anglo-American talks in Washington.

Mr Gaitskell—who was accompanied by Mr Kenneth Younger, MP, both former Labour Ministers—urged that all exports of surplus war stores should be completely banned for the time being.

He proposed that the Government of Belgium, through which country recent arms cargoes have been re-exported to Egypt, should be invited to impose a similar ban. Mr Selwyn Lloyd, who assisted the Prime Minister at tonight's meeting, explained that existing export licences for surplus war material were already being carefully reviewed and that this process was nearly complete.

Let Them Know

Mr Gaitskell pressed for the issue of an official Government White Paper (parliamentary document) giving the full facts on the export of surplus war stores.

In the talks Mr Gaitskell and his colleagues expressed anxiety about the lack of balance in the supply of arms to the Middle East "in the light of recent shipments from here and the deliveries from Czechoslovakia to Egypt."

The Prime Minister will let the Opposition know at an early moment his answer to their request for a White Paper, the recall of Parliament and the banning of exports of surplus military material. —Reuter.

ANTARCTIC VESSEL NEARING 1ST BASE

London, Jan. 1 (Delayed). The 829-ton schooner Theron, with the advance party of the Commonwealth Antarctic expedition on board, was today forcing her way steadily through pack ice towards Vahsel Bay where the first base is to be set up. She has sailed 100 miles since December 27.

Spotter planes fitted with floats are helping the Theron to thread her way through the ice floes.

At noon on New Year's Day the Theron's position was latitude 69 degrees south, longitude 23 degrees west, and this message was radiated:

"Slow progress has been made in the last four days owing to conditions of heavy ice. The weather, since leaving South Georgia, has been so overcast and poor that it has not been possible to take any cinema pictures. Nevertheless we are all safe and well on board today." —Reuter.

Buenos Aires, Jan. 2. A group of 229 persons, who were arrested for disturbing "public tranquility" sailed from here today aboard an Argentine Navy transport.

The group has been deported to southern Argentina. Under the regulations of the state of siege. —France-Press.



How'd you like to invite this boy to Christmas dinner? His name is Piet Van der Zwaard and here he is indulging in his favourite hobby—eating. All food is strictly ambrosia to Piet, who is known throughout the length and breadth of the Netherlands as "Bolle Piet" (Puffed Piet). He owns a hotel at Doorn, Holland, bearing that name, and there he can indulge in his hobby to his heart's content. Vital statistics: age, 40; circumference 6 ft 0 in; weight 445 lbs. Hey, he's overweight. —Express Photo.

\$7 Million For Flood Victims

San Francisco, Jan. 2. ELLSWORTH Bunker, president of the American National Red Cross, said today his organisation expects to spend more than \$7,000,000 to help nearly 10,000 flood victims in the Far West.

The Christmas week floods affected California, Oregon and Nevada, taking a toll of 82 lives—13 in Oregon and 69 in California—and causing at least \$150,000,000 in damage. Latest reports from Red Cross survey teams indicated that nearly 28,000 families were affected by the floods, which reached their peak on Christmas eve.

Rivers Receding

About 4,000 of these have registered with the Red Cross for help in repairing, rebuilding and returning their homes.

"It appears to us now that there will be between 9,000 and 10,000 families and small businesses that will need assistance from the Red Cross," Mr Bunker said.

Meanwhile, the states' rivers continued receding from the devastating flood stages of Christmas week. New storms brought more rainfall, but it was not heavy enough to start the rivers rising again.

At Yuba City, where 10,000 residents had to flee for their lives before the rampaging Feather River, a duck to dawn survey was removed. National Guardsmen were withdrawn to the perimeter of the city.

Looters Active

Sheriff George Carpenter, of Sutter County, which includes Yuba City, asked other cities and counties to lend law officers to help protect residents against looters.

He said looters were at work in some areas, particularly rural districts, where residents placed round or on top of loaves to dry out. Thieves using boats and autos stole them. In many cases, they wore the last remaining possessions of the flood victims. —United Press.

'St Louis Blues' Composer Ill

New York, Jan. 2. Composer W.C. Handy was reported critically ill in hospital here today. The nature of his illness was not disclosed.

The famed 52-year-old writer of the "St Louis Blues" and many other popular pieces entered hospital late last week. The Negro composer was born at Florence, Alabama, November 12, 1873. He owns the Handy Music Co. Inc., in New York. He is now in a nursing home in New York City. —United Press.

Russian Embassy Fire

QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IN HOUSE

Ottawa, Jan. 2.

Charges and counter-charges flew thick today in the wake of last night's \$250,000 fire that destroyed the Russian Embassy.

The matter was expected to be aired in Parliament when it opens next week. The Prime Minister, Mr Louis St Laurent, and the External Affairs Minister, Mr Lester Pearson, are likely to face a barrage of Opposition questions.

Conflicting statements were the order of the day. Miss Charlotte Whitton, Ottawa's doughy Mayor, told British United Press she hoped to arrange an informal conference within the next few weeks among civic authorities, representatives of the External Affairs Department and leaders of the Diplomatic Corps.

No Formal Complaint

She said she was not planning any formal complaint to the External Affairs Department about the Russians' lack of co-operation with City firemen.

She stuck to her charge, however, that members of the Embassy staff "impeded the firemen" when the men first tried to get into the rambling, three-story stone and brick mansion. The Mayor said she wanted the special conference to "straighten out for all time" the powers of City firemen when called to fight a fire on any diplomatic property.

The Mayor disagreed with charges by some Russian spokesmen that the firemen fought the blaze in the wrong way. She said if it had not been for the obstruction of the Embassy staff "we would have got the fire under control."

More than 100 men out of a force of 380 and about 14 pieces of equipment were on hand, and an emergency call was issued to all off-duty men to stand by at their stations.

More Interested

The fire chief, Mr John Foote, said he was fairly sure that the Russians "fought the fire for at least an hour" before the Fire Department was notified.

He added that, after the firemen arrived, the Russians seemed "much more interested in getting everything out of the place than they were in the fire."

Mr Foote was asked about the Embassy staff member who threw a punch at him as he was entering the building. The chief chuckled and discounted the incident, noting there had been a small party in progress before the fire, he excused the wild swinger his exuberance. "I found all the Russians perfect gentlemen," said the chief. —United Press.

More Germans Released

Bonn, Jan. 2. Another 15 Germans convicted by Soviet military tribunals arrived at Friedland Camp today from prisons in East Germany, bringing the total of such releases to 179.

They arrived at the East-West German frontier on a regular inter-zonal train.

They came from prisons in Bautzen, Torgau and Brandenburg and from the women's prison at Hohenzollern. All had been convicted by the Russians "to long terms of imprisonment and handed over to East German custody. The first releases began on Christmas Day. —Reuter.

Spy Network Handed To W. German Government

Bonn, Jan. 2.

The mysterious anti-Communist spy network financed by the United States and headed by ex-Wehrmacht General Reinhard Gehlen — "the man with no face" — has been handed over to the West German Government, usually well informed sources said today.

From closely guarded headquarters at Pullach, near Munich, Herr Gehlen has been controlling 3,000 agents working in East Germany and further east. He is surrounded by such secrecy that no postwar photographs of him are known.

Not Recognised

It is said that when he visited Parliament here to address a committee nobody recognised him.

During the war he headed the German general staff section gathering information on the Russian and other Eastern fronts. Although it has never been officially stated his postwar network is known to have been built up with American funds.

Opposition sources said its transfer to the West German authorities was made by agreement of all the major parties. —Reuter.

MAJESTIC

FINAL TO-DAY
At 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.



TO-MORROW
"THE STRANGER'S HAND"

Wilma Montesi's Parents File Charges

Rome, Jan. 2.

The parents of Wilma Montesi today filed formal charges against Giampiero Piccioni, son of a former Foreign Minister, for causing the death of their daughter.

The charges were filed at the Rome Penal Court by their lawyers, who also filed lesser charges of implication in the case against the self-styled Marquis Ugo Montagna and the former police chief of Rome, Saverio Polito.

Piccioni was charged with "causing the death by drowning" of Wilma Montesi, whose scantily clad young body was found on a lonely beach near Rome on the morning of April 10, 1953. The case, called the Italian "scandal of the century," has been marked by frequent revelations which at one point threatened the downfall of the Italian Government and did in fact cause the then Foreign Minister, Attilio Piccioni, to resign from his post because of the implication of his son in the mystery.

Piccioni, a 33-year-old jazz band leader, faces charges of culpable homicide. The investigating magistrate, Raffaele Sepe, believed that Piccioni abandoned the 21-year-old Wilma Montesi on a lonely beach and let the tide come up and drown her.

Montagna, 44, who gave himself the title of Marquis of San Bartolomeo, is alleged to have used his influence to hush up the Montesi case.

Polito, 73, who resigned as police chief, is alleged to have collaborated with Piccioni and Montagna in getting the girl's death written off the police records as "accidental drowning." —United Press.

State Charges

Giampiero Piccioni and Montagna Polito already face charges brought against them by the State.



Commencing Friday, 6th JAN.

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THESE ITALIAN GIRLS!

By Henry Thody

Rome
WHAT exciting creatures these postwar Italian girls are! And I don't just mean the Lollobrigidas, the Mangano and the Sophia Loren.

Take attractive, raven-haired Lilliana Sereno, just 21, the winner of an hour-long fight with an octopus on the seabed off the African coast.

Lilliana's love of water was always a worry to her parents. At 19 she told her father: "I have a job, and I start tomorrow as a deep-sea diver."

Today Lilliana is a highly-skilled deep-sea diver, the only woman in the world doing such work, she claims. Recently she went to Algeria to help salvage a sunken Liberty ship loaded with explosives. One day she was trapped by a mine door, and saved by accident, with only minutes to spare. Then the hour battle with the giant octopus!

And Lilliana's favourite pastime—underwater fishing!

IN picturesque Modena there is a lovely girl, Mara Betelli, who bears a striking resemblance to Italian star Pier Angeli, except that Mara is a barber!

Recently Mara's impressed many customers clubbed together to send her to Rome for a film test. Mara reluctantly left her customers, but in Rome, the morning the screen test was arranged, she took the train back to her barber's shop, instead of the studios.

"I'd rather shave my customers than be a second Gina Lollobrigida," said Mara as she happily stopped her favourite cut-throat!

MRS Carbonelli, 42, farmer's wife in North Italy, had a problem experienced by housewives elsewhere. Her husband used to help himself to the housekeeping money—his lacy and wine. Last week, in desperate effort to prevent her husband from squandering her housekeeping savings, Mrs Carbonelli swallowed the keys to the drawer where the money was kept.

The doctor who opened up her stomach to remove the bunch of keys recommended a savings account as a less painful means of keeping the housekeeping money safe.



Parasitic skin disease, itching, eczema etc.

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Rizal Day at Filipino Club
New Year Dance at K.C.C.
Tamar Christmas Pantomime
Children's Party at E.Y.M.C.A.
Children's Party at Command Workshops
Christmas Party of Senior School at St. John's
Return of French Soldiers from Red China
St. John's Cathedral Children's Party
Return of H.K.U. Professors
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PAGE
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THIS (ABOVE) WAS SIR LAURENCE OLIVIER—IN FALSE NOSE—DURING A BREAK IN SHOOTING THE FILM

OLIVIER'S EERIEST SCENE LOVE

He rewrites Shakespeare to add extra drama

by DAVID LEWIN

SIR LAURENCE OLIVIER has changed Shakespeare to provide his film of "Richard III" with a dramatic and unexpected love scene.

The scene between Olivier and Claire Bloom is one of the most remarkable ever shot. I predict it will be the high point of controversy when the picture has its public showing.

For Olivier has decided that to add "dramatic content" to the story he should make love to Claire Bloom over the coffin of her dead husband—murdered by Olivier.

(Claire Bloom plays Lady Anne—and the way Shakespeare had it was that Richard III acted by Olivier) killed her father-in-law.

The love scene that follows the funeral has been specially strengthened

and extended (with Sir Laurence Olivier, also the director, helping out with the dialogue).

Olivier, a hunch-backed figure in black, looms up over the coffin as it is being borne by hooded monks. Then he asks Claire Bloom to marry him.

At first she refuses. Olivier takes out his sword and offers to let her stab him. She cannot.

He offers to kill himself... she stops his hand. And then—the attraction of opposites—she kisses her husband's murderer.

It is an astonishing scene in a picture that has already created so much attention that a New York TV company has bought it for \$500,000 (£180,000) for one showing in America.

The film credit-titles also list assistance from Colley Cibber and David Garrick, two eighteenth-century actor-dramatists.



At this moment in the play as Shakespeare wrote it, Lady Anne (Claire Bloom) is by the coffin of her father-in-law when Richard III

(Laurence Olivier) asks her to marry him. In the film as re-written by Olivier it is her husband who is in the coffin.

I TRAVEL THE ROAD OF SUDDEN DEATH

By Russell Spurr

Kabul
I ARRIVED here in a snowstorm, dazed and battered by the roughest drive of my life.

I was following Messrs Bulgarnin and Krushchev into Afghanistan. They flow. I came by road.

Thirteen hours, 280 agonising miles from Peshawar, in Pakistan, bumped and bounced over goat tracks most of the way.

Coughing through deserts of dust and pebble that might have been old atomic testing grounds; shuddering round precipice bends, with cloud mercifully concealing the 1,000 ft. drop below; dodging past camels and laden donkeys.

Accelerating past surly, bearded tribesmen who seemed uncertain whether to shoot or to slay.

Trying all the time—such!—to appreciate the most romantic motor drive in the world.

It looked so easy from Pakistan. The distance wasn't great. The British-built tarmac road beckoned invitingly into the Khyber Pass.

The sun came up behind great brown mountains as the truck I had hired lumbered into the Khyber country. Not an Afghani, not a Bengal Lancer in sight. Only a line of empty forest.

On the lower slopes there is a magnificent military railway. Carved on roadside rocks are the badges of departed British regiments.

No Milk

CHRYSANTEMUMS are still being grown at an old British frontier post—by the Pakistanis now. Tea is still served, but without milk and with too much sugar.

"We have been having a bit of trouble," said a Pakistani Customs clerk. "Afghan troops have been crossing the border here and shooting things up. The Frontier Constabulary has been after them."

He stamped my passport, and added thoughtfully: "Last night the Afghans got a bit back. Their frontier post was shot up."

"By the constabulary?" I asked. The clerk grinned: "It was shot up, that's all I know."

There have been constant incidents along the North-west Frontier since the dictatorial Government in Kabul has been claiming a slice of Pakistan for Afghanistan.

"Good luck, anyway," said the clerk. "Wish I could wish you a good journey." I soon saw why.

A constable lowered a chain across the road. My truck roared across into Afghanistan.

Then—crash! The tarmac ended. Ruts and potholes began. They continued for 240 miles right up to my hotel door in Kabul.

No Purdah

AN Afghan sentry with a Russian rifle directed me into a grubby border guardhouse. A grubby official examined my passport, read the collection of visas, smoked a cigarette, chatted to a colleague, and finally decided I could not go through.

My visa was for an air trip to Afghanistan, not for entry by road.

I explained that plane services were suspended.

The Afghan official grudgingly put through a phone call to Kabul. Half an hour later I was allowed to proceed.

Camels were coming down the road with an end-of-season export of grapes.

The camels pitter-patted through the cushioning dust, oblivious to truck horn or the sticks of the caravanners.

Women ran along behind the caravans rounding up children, or checking babies, ducks, and chickens slung among the saddlebags.

There is no purdah veil for these nomad women. But they scowl as they look at you to discourage any familiarity. It is best to keep staring straight ahead. Even a friendly "Good morning" has sometimes cost a foreigner his life.

Villages appeared beyond the Khyber, and a few half-hearted

fields. Mud walls hid the houses, while men with rifles sat in conical corner watch-towers.

This is the most violent country in the world. Blood feuds last for centuries, and a keen eye plus a whetted knife are essentials to survival.

This is a loveless, brutal country where the bridegroom's first duty is to thrash his wife.

This is a no man's country of cultures and stunted trees and rows of roadside graves—for death is never far away.

A cold wind rustled the little flags that hung over the graves. The flags took the place of flowers that would never last there.

A few words in Arabic script across rough slate headstones sometimes reminded a family that this death had yet to be avenged.

The truck fought its way along the track. The radiator boiled, springs squealed, and every nut and bolt joined in protest.

The last 10-mile-an-hour grind up to the Kabul plateau lasted about a month; my watch said four hours. I don't believe it.

The Lataband Pass topped 10,000 feet, night fell, cloud closed in, and snow came swirling down.

No Salaam

I BEGAN to wonder if my injuries would be permanent... then a line of lights appeared ahead.

These are the only electric lights in Afghanistan.

"Kabul," said my driver, "Allah be praised."

I was too tired to join him in a salaam towards Mecca.

Next day I saw Afghanistan's most violent game. Twenty horsemen fought for the headless carcass of a calf.

The riders, in two teams, lashed each other with steel-tipped whips, shouting and snarling as they dragged the calf from end to end of Kabul Stadium.

Horses reared. Men fell in the scrimmage. Both men and horses dripped with blood.

This game, said to have been played originally with a human body as a ball, ended in a win for the team of bearded, blue-coated giants who twice hurled the calf against a flagstaff that represented goal.

Comrade Krushchev applauded the winners and handed over a silver trophy.

It was after this that he and Bulgarnin went behind the machine-gun guarded doors of Afghan Premier Daud's palace to discuss the granting of increased Soviet technical aid and a long-term credit of \$100 million (£30,000,000).

This will tie Afghanistan still more closely to the Soviet Union.

Afghanistan, almost as big as France, is an important country militarily. It is a neighbour of Russia, it also borders Persia and Pakistan, both of them allied to the West.

It is quite a shock to see the Soviet influence that already exists in Afghanistan.

No Quality

IN Kabul, the capital (pop. 300,000)—a city of high mud walls and veiled women—Soviet-built Pobeda taxis and Molotov buses rattle over the ruins. A Soviet trading company has opened an imposing headquarters in the main street.

Russian goods sell cut-price in the bazaars. You can buy a new Soviet bicycle for £3. It falls to bits in nine months.

But the British product costs twice the price. And price means more than quality in Afghanistan, where the average wage is £2 a month.

Serge-suited Soviet technicians are building noticeable projects all over the country.

Each Russian venture—like the new Kabul petrol dump—is designed for show. It gets far more publicity than the annual \$1,000,000 (£354,000) which America supplies in her scheme for aiding under-developed countries.

Yes, those taxis, the £3 bicycles, and the petrol dump are the first taste of a Russian life with subsidised goods that is going to hurt British trade throughout the East.

Afghan Premier Daud has given the Russian drive his blessing. But at least his Foreign Minister has also said: "We will continue our policy of neutrality."

BROADWAY SENDS FOR THE DIVA

By EVELYN IRONS

Famous soprano Helen Traubel is putting gusto into a new musical production on Broadway. 'I can cut a rug like anybody else,' she says.

HELEN TRAUBEL, the Wagnerian soprano who threw her operatic dignity out of the windows of the "Met" to sing blues in the night clubs, starts her ninth career at the age of 52.

Bursting into musical comedy in Rodgers and Hammerstein's much-heralded "Pipe Dream," she has just made her Broadway debut.

Helen has previously done recitals, radio, orchestral concerts, recordings, television, supper clubs and a movie besides opera. Now, after a four-week try out in Boston, she says she is enjoying her newest job as much as any of the others.

That is saying plenty, for she is a person who brings enormous gusto to everything she does.

Junoque, green-eyed, red-haired Helen Traubel, whose husband, William Baez, is her business manager, will not disclose how much she is getting as the star of a new show which boasts the biggest advance sale in theatre history (nearly a million and a half dollars' worth of bookings already for the Broadway production, which is practically sold out until March).

More dollars

But she is probably getting about \$5,000 a week—more than she got as top-rating diva in the Metropolitan Opera. Then her pay was \$1,000 each performance.

But it cannot approach the \$100,000 she got for four weeks' cabaret at the Sahara, in Las Vegas.

In "Pipe Dream," which is set in John Steinbeck's Cannery Row and is based on his novel, "Sweet Thursday," Helen plays what the Americans call a "Madam," who owns a disreputable cafe and sells the charms of the girls employed there.

In this rumbustious part she sings as you would expect. She also dances in a rollicking calypso number.

"I can cut a rug like anybody else," she explains with one of those hearty unblinded grins of laughter that accompany her romps on television, speeding along with Jimmy Durante.

twelve stone plus—Prima Donna Traubel is light on her feet and she is not self-conscious about empering. In her film debut in "Deep in My Heart" a year ago she kicked up her heels with Jose Ferrer in a pas de deux, Leg of Mutton.

Why stuffy?

That number was a long, long way from Isolde and the Liebestod.

"Music doesn't need to be stuffy to be good," says Miss Traubel.

She tells anyone who is shocked by her following Pinza and Melchior from grand opera to light entertainment: "I am doing what I always wanted. I want to sing what people want to hear."

In her views the songs of Cole Porter, Gershwin, Jerome Kern and Richard Rodgers are as important as those of Wagner, Brahms and Strauss.

She might also agree that some of the best of grand opera, to which children are taken "because it is educational," are no better fauna than the lady of easy virtue she impersonates in "Pipe Dream."

She is the first American-born and American-trained soprano to have sung Isolde and the three Brünnhildes at the Met. She is, too, the daughter of a druggist in St. Louis, Missouri, and her night club theme song is—the St. Louis Blues.

Her first public appearances were in a local church choir. At 19, Helen married Louis Carpenter, a St. Louis car salesman. They separated after only four months and later divorced. She married William Baez 17 years ago.

Helen made her operatic debut in 1937, and when Kirsten Flagstad left for Norway four years later she succeeded her as leading singer of German opera.

Two years ago—the year she built a five-foot nine and a half inch—her world concert tour of the Baltimore Orioles.

four—came revolution. Miss Traubel appeared in a night club—the Chez Paree of Chicago, Rudolf Bing, British director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, thought she had led the side and her high C's down.

He told her she need not come back until she shook off the supper clubs, Miss Traubel slipped down his contract—unsigned. The war between "Op" and "Pop" music was on. Helen says she does not regret that breach with Divadom.

On the Hollywood set she met her idols who are not famous tenors, such as Michael Wilding, Walter Pidgeon and George Sanders. People stop her in the street and address her as Helen. "I never did that when I was in opera," she beams proudly.

Bedroom piano

Stage stardom does not mean dialing away her operatic figure. "I'm a pretty comfortable person," she says.

Always a bit of gourmet, she makes just a few gestures to slimming. She uses a saccharine substitute for sugar, orders skimmed milk, and prefers lean meat to fat. Otherwise, her diet is lavish, with the aperitif on oysters and steaks.

Besides her New York flat, where there is a piano even in her bedroom, she has a show-house with a new swimming pool overlooking the sea on the California coast, 60 miles from Hollywood.

She loves moviegoing, is an impassioned TV fan, devours detective stories—she wrote a whodunit herself, a crime novel called The Metropolitan Opera Murder.

But most of all she loves baseball. Helen Traubel is the only operatic soprano in the world to be a stockholder in a team. She once owned the St. Louis Browns, and now has shares in the Baltimore Orioles.

SECRET OF THE BIRDS

By CHAPMAN PINCHER

THE secret of what gives the cock chaffinch his strange power over female chaffinches has been discovered by Peter Marler, 26-year-old Cambridge scientist.

It is the bird's bright pink "walcott" which enables him to lord it so decisively over the dowdy, sparrow-like females.

At the sight of a male's pink breast the average female chaffinch immediately gives ground so that he gets first pick of the food and the best perching places.

Mr Marler has proved this by painting pink waistcoats on female chaffinches. Immediately their social status soared both with the males and other females.

Cock chaffinches were far less bullying and spiteful, females which had previously pocketed them, treated them with respect.

This encouraged the painted ladies to squabble with their masters so successfully that they won 87 per cent of the argument. Only eight per cent of

the unpainted females had the courage to hit cock males and get away with it.

When the two lowest females of a flock were given pink waistcoats they quickly became acknowledged leaders of hen-chaffinch society.

The painted birds did not realise they were made up to look like males but when they saw the others treating them with such deference they made the most of their chance.

Odd last thing that the cock chaffinch's commonest call is "chick, chick, chick..."

CAAF 6, HKFA 3

CAAF TAKES DECISIVE
LEAD IN THEIR BID
FOR GOVERNOR'S CUP

By I. M. MacTAVISH

Playing a brand of football the opposition could never match, the Chinese boys took a decisive lead in their efforts to retain the Governor's Cup for another year.

This game, which was played at the Hongkong Stadium yesterday, was something of a disappointment for the standard of play never quite reached expectations. The heavy drizzle made the surface very slippery and the players on both sides were never at their ease with the skidding ball with the result that passes frequently went astray.

Nevertheless, it was the Chinese who showed the greater ability to master the elements, and their win was as clear-cut as the score suggests.

The small gathering of spectators who crunched into the stands or huddled under umbrellas on the open terracing, emphasised the open air shortcomings of the new stadium. The Chinese

spectators, faithful as they are to the game, will not sit out in the rain, or for that matter in the bright sun, and additional covered accommodation is a necessity if the Stadium is not to become a fair weather arena.

It was the unexpected opinion of many of the officials present yesterday that the game would have attracted a much bigger gathering at the Club Ground where adequate shelter would have been available.

EARLY INCIDENTS

Both sides made last-minute changes but the opening play was interesting enough and there were early incidents around both goals.

The FA side went ahead after 10 minutes when Morris chased a free-kick from McInnes to beat Wai Fat-kim close to the post. The CAAF defence was tough, claiming off-side but the referee and the linesman had no doubt about the legitimacy of the score.

Charlesworth was quickly in action clearing spots from the cage. Chinese forwards and it was soon obvious that he was in good form. One save from a close range shot by Lau Chi-lam was a fine demonstration of alert goalkeeping.

Although the HKFA side frequently carried the ball into "big opponents' defence areas they never really suggested that they carried the same power or precision as Ho Cheung-yin and his forward colleagues.

The little South China star was always on the look out for an opening and had hard luck with several good tries. When the equaliser came in the 25th minute there was some very poor covering by the HKFA defenders before Ho Cheung-yin smacked the ball into the net.

Just a minute later the Chinese took the lead when unmarked Ho Cheung-yin was in perfect position to place the ball past Charlesworth.

The score remained unaltered until 10 minutes after the interval when Ho Cheung-yin beat Charlesworth all ends up to make the score 3-1.

At this stage there was a partial revival by the FA side and when Morris beat Wai Fat-kim, his disappointment at seeing the ball hit the post was quickly changed to pleasure for Bennett who was following up the ball with the easiest of tasks in smacking the ball into the net.

This stung the Chinese into immediate retaliation and in the 60th and 67th minutes they struck a double blow and goals by Ho Cheung-yin and Yiu Cheuk-yin raised their total to five.

There was still a kick in the opposition, however, and Blackburn changed the scoreboard to

5-3 with a well directed shot wide of Wai Fat-kim's left hand.

THE LAST GOAL

Blackburn was also closely connected with the last goal of the game but this one will give him little pleasure for it came at the wrong end. He had gone back to help his mates in defence and the ball was pushed to him by Crompton. The attacker made a hasty pass and it went right to the foot of Chan Fui-hung who swung the ball across the penalty area where Lau Chi-lam's head brilliantly directed it into the net.

Although on this occasion Charlesworth looked a bit slow in coming out to the cross,

The winning side always had a little in reserve and the smooth running forward line was too crafty and too clever for the opposition.

Ho Cheung-yin was right on top form and his powerful long distance shots at goal gave the spectators something to shout about. Chan Fui-hung was the best middleman but Ko Po-keung is still searching for last season's confidence. Young Chan Cheung is making steady progress.

The power of the side, however, was up front where Ho Cheung-yin again demonstrated that a good player can play anywhere by turning in a fine show at centre-forward. Ho Ying-fun was again in sparkling form and his quick perfect crosses always caused danger to the opposition.

Lau Chi-lam never quite reached the class of those around him and was overshadowed by Yiu Cheuk-yin in the other inside position. Mok Chun-wah was clever in possession but for the moment has lost a little of his finishing fire.

Charlesworth did a grand afternoon's work between the HKFA sticks but didn't get the best of support or covering from those in front of him. Armstrong and Crompton were never very happy against the fast moving CAAF wingers and the half back line was disappointing. Santos was good in possession but his tackling was weak. Hornbush worked hard but was several times drawn out of position by the skilful interchanging of the Chinese inside trio.

LATE DEPUTY

In spite of scoring three times the FA front line lacked power and cohesion. Morris covered miles of ground without achieving very much and he missed two easy scoring chances in the second half. White worked the ball well and distributed it poorly and over the piece it was Pickering, a late deputy for McInnes, who got the forward line going.

Blackburn started off in most promising mood but faded out later on. Once he has mastered the art of pulling his crosses nearer to the penalty spot instead of dropping them under the crossbar he will increase his worth to his side still further.

Bennett is not yet ready for this class of representative football and was blotted out of the game for long periods.

VERDICT

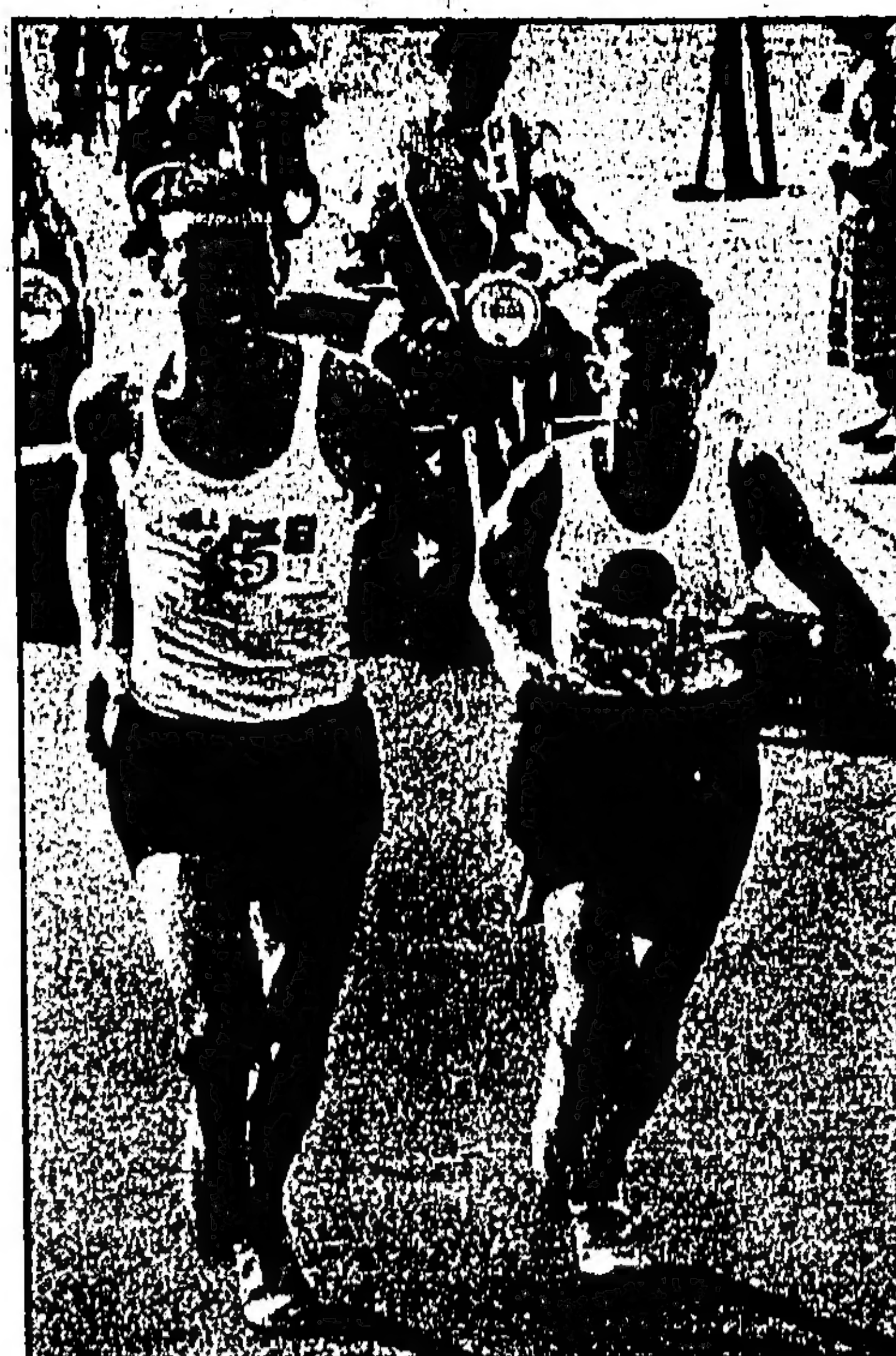
A game played in sporting fashion in difficult conditions. Full marks to McInnes for voluntarily giving up the captaincy of the side in favour of Crompton who was having his last game in Hongkong. A few marks to Referee Sammy Chang for not using the advantage rule to advantage. Several times players who were fouled recovered the ball and moved into good position only to hear the whistle go in their favour.

TEAMS

CAAF: Wai Fat-kim; Hau Yung-sang, Lau Chi-ping; Chan Fui-hung, Ko Po-keung, Chan Chi-kong; Ho Ying-fun, Lau Chi-lam, Ho Cheung-yin, Yiu Cheuk-yin, Mok Chun-wah.

HKFA: Charlesworth; Armstrong, Crompton; McInnes, Hornbush, Santos; Bennett, White, Morris, Pickering, Blackburn.

ON THEIR WAY



Alan Smith and Bruce Tulloh leading in the New Year Day Road Race in Kowloon. Tulloh (right) is always a determined runner, but Smith is a great believer in not overtaxing himself and can always turn a smile on for the photographers.—China Mail Photo.

West Bromwich Albion
Spring Major Upset By
Beating Newcastle 3-0

London, Jan. 2.

Although today's soccer programme was largely a Scottish one, it being a traditional Scottish holiday, there were some important games in the English League, chiefly concerning Northern clubs.

A major surprise was the home defeat in Division One of Newcastle, the Cup holders, Ronnie Allen scoring three times for West Bromwich Albion, once from the penalty spot. It is more than three months since Albion won away from home.

Hobbs Johnstone of Manchester City was another scorer of a hat-trick, against Portsmouth, whose defence collapsed in the closing stages.

Huddersfield Town, the bottom team in the League, took a point from Bolton, at Bolton, a result that will no doubt give them confidence for next Saturday's Cup tie on the same ground.

None of the leading teams in the first two Divisions of the League was engaged today. There were no League III South Games but several in the North were Barrow, the bottom team. Grimsby, the leaders, fought a goalless draw at Barrow.

THIRD HAT TRICK

The third hat trick of the day came in the Northern section game in which Carlisle won at home against Bradford, Alec Ashman scoring three times.

A full Scottish programme was featured by the section "A" clashes of leading clubs. Don Kirchenbrun, Rangers centre-forward, added another goal to his tally and this one was sufficient for Rangers, second in the table, to score a great win over Celtic, the leaders who, only one point in front, have played two more games than Rangers.

Hearts (Third) and Hibernian (Fourth) also clashed today and an equal share of four goals kept them level on points, one behind Rangers, though Hearts better goal average leaves them in the third place.

Stirling Albion, bottom team, scored their second win in 10 games when a first half goal from Willie Simmonds gave them both points against Falkirk.

Three leading teams in Division "B", Queens' Park,

Ayr and St. Johnstone, all won leaving this table unchanged.—Reuter.

RUGGER

Jean Prat Declines
Invitation To Play
Against Scotland

Paris, Jan. 2.

Jean Prat, Captain of France for whom he has played in 38 internationals, is not included at his own request in the team to play Scotland in the opening game of the Rugby Union International Championship at Edinburgh on January 14.

Prat and his brother, Maurice, told the selectors yesterday that they would decline any invitation to play.

The French team has a new look with four new caps and only six survivors of the team which lost to Wales in the final match of last year's Championship.

Those who keep their places are full back Vannier, scrum half Dufau, and the forwards.

New caps are Jacques Dupuy (wing three-quarter), Guy Steiner (centre), Robert Vigier (hooker) and Gerard Roucares (second row forward).

Team: M. Vannier (Racing Club); J. Dupuy (Toulouse), A. Boniface (Monte de Marsan), G. Steiner (Paris University), L. Roge (Beziers); J. Bouquet (Vienne), G. Dufau (Racing Club); A. Domenoch (Brive), R. Vigier (Montfermeil), R. Dienes (Cognac), B. Chevallier (Montfermeil), R. Baulon (Bayonne), M. Colaya (Biarritz), A. Carrere (Vichy).—China Mail Special.

PIRIE AS SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

THE PUBLIC MORE THAN
SURPRISED THE PRESS;
BUT WERE THEY RIGHT?

By VERNON MORGAN

London, Jan. 1.

One of the biggest surprises of the 1955 sporting season was reserved for the dying days of the year—the selection of Gordon Pirie as the "Sportsman of the Year" by the British public.

Pirie, noted British distance runner, was not rated by the Sports Writers' Association in the first seven in Britain; while in my list of the best in the world in 1955, Pirie was missing though four other Britons were included in the first 12 and several others honourably mentioned.

Both in the nation-wide ballot organised by the weekly magazine "Sporting Record" and that of the Sports Writers' Association, the term of selection was for the sportsman who had done most during the year to enhance the international prestige of Britain during the year.

The British public, taking part in the Sporting Record ballot and also in the television award which went to Pirie too, must have completely overlooked this international aspect.

What did Pirie do abroad during the year? He was roundly beaten by the Russian, Vladimir Kuts, over 10,000 metres in Moscow and by Emil Zatopek in Prague.

What did he even do at home apart from taking his revenge over Zatopek in the 10,000 metres at the White City, London, in time well outside the Czech's best effort?

NO COMPARISON

Pirie did not break a world record during the year or even win a national title. How can that compare with the feats of John Dinsley, the Welsh steeple-chaser, nominated the Sportsman of the Year by the sports writers, who was undefeated on the Continent and broke the official world record for the 3,000 metres Steeplechase.

Or with Chris Chataway who broke one world record, ran a mile in under four minutes and was beaten only by the Hungarians; or with Brian Hewson, who also beat four minutes for the mile, or even hurdler Jack Fawcett, who had a 100 per cent record throughout the season.

That is in track and field athletics only, whereas all sports had to be considered. How could Pirie's not particularly distinguished performances compare with the wonderful play and great sportsmanship of England soccer captain Billy Wright; with the brilliant driving of Donald Campbell who set up a new water speed record; with the nerve and skill of Geoffrey Duke, World motorcycle Champion; or with the superb riding of cyclist Norman Shiels who beat the world in the pursuit event to name but a few of many contenders. Indeed the result of the Sporting Record and TV pools was almost staggering.

HOW TO EXPLAIN IT

How to explain it? There are several possibilities. It first has to be understood that there was no obvious choice like Roger Bannister last year and that the range of contenders was very wide. Then, as stated earlier, the public seemed completely to overlook the terms of reference for the award and what many sportsmen had very much in the public eye had done for their country. They were undoubtedly unduly influenced by their television sets as was shown last year when illogically Chataway got the TV award over Bannister.

The stirring race between Pirie and Zatopek at the White City had remained firm in the minds of viewers. The spectacle of this exciting run impressed them so much that many thousands would not have appreciated the difference in ages between the two runners or that the Czech was running a long way below his best.

That race came late in the season and just before ballot papers went out. Men who had done their noble stunts months earlier and had been gaining great prestige for the nation abroad outside the range of television cameras were forgotten and overlooked. That was not, however, the case with the

sports writers and the experts, who carefully weighed up the performances of the leading athletes over the whole year to produce an analytical list. In their case they ranked six. In that of the sporting record, only one name had to be given. That might have made a difference.

What did this lucky young man do on learning that he had won the award? Did he begin by congratulating with Chataway who was runner-up for the second successive year?

Did he tell the large crowd of notables who had come to see him get the huge silver bowl and the millions watching on TV that he was fortunate to be elected? Not he.

JUST GROUSED

All Pirie did was to grouch at the sports writers for not including him in their list and follow this with an attack on them for doing "immeasurable damage to British sport."

This was hardly the way to enlist their sympathy and to get them to stop calling him "big head" which he later said he hoped they would do. All it meant was that some very harsh words were written about "Pirrie" and he had the worst press he has had. Hundreds of sportsmen and sportswomen present were appalled at his outburst. Some who had voted for him said they regretted they had helped to nominate him the "sportsman" of the year.—China Mail Special.

Only Two Events
For Zatopek
At Melbourne

Prague, Jan. 2.

Emil Zatopek, triple Gold medalist at the 1952 Olympic Games, will compete in the 10,000 metres and the Marathon at this year's Games in Melbourne.

This was announced today by the Czech News Agency Otoka, quoting from the New Year edition of Rude Pravo.

Zatopek won over those distances and also over the 5,000 metres, at Helsinki, but he is quoted as saying that he realises that over the shorter distance he cannot possibly improve on previous performances.

Zatopek has already started training in India and next month he will continue his preparation near Prague, before probably going to Berlin for training with athletes of the Berlin Dynamo. This would mark the end of the first phase of his training.

Zatopek also anticipates taking part in the Humanite Cross country race in Paris but his winter preparation will not differ very much from earlier training except that he will run about 40 miles a day.

Replying to a question Zatopek was quoted as saying "My task at the Olympic Games will be very difficult. I think, however, that experience will count again this time as it did at previous Olympics. I will fight and put all my stubbornness into it."—Reuter.

New Australian
Swim Record

Sydney, Jan. 2.

Murray Rose, of Sydney, broke the Australian Free Style swimming record for 1,650 yards with a time of 16 minutes, 35 seconds here tonight.

He clipped 23.9 seconds off the previous record.—Reuter.

RAF-NAVY
BEAT HKCC
BY 2 WKTS

The Combined RAF and Navy team caused a minor upset in the Triangular Cricket Tournament yesterday at Chater Road, when they beat a weakened Hongkong Cricket Club team by two wickets.

The Chater Road team batted first and the whole side was skittled out for a meagre 135 runs. Ivor Stanton and Rory Macpherson shared the honours, being the top scorers, with 26 runs each.

RAF's opening bowler Henderson was most successful for the combined RAF and Navy team claiming five wickets for 40 runs.

The RAF-Navy team made a disastrous start and at one stage were six wickets down for 68 runs. But Welch and Gee saved the day by putting up a 46 runs partnership before Welch fell a victim to Stanton. He scored 20 runs. After adding another 11 runs to the total, Gee also left and the score was then 8 for 125 runs.

Cmdr Taylor and Davey soon made the necessary runs to give them a two wicket victory. Stanton captured six wickets for 46 runs.

HKCC				
C. W. Hill, c. Welch b. Henderson	4			
C. J. B. Leader, c. Taylor b. Henderson	1			
C. J. B. Leader, c. Taylor b. Henderson	1			
C. J. B. Leader, c. Taylor b. Henderson	1			
C. J. B. Leader, c. Taylor b. Henderson	1			
C. J. B. Leader, c. Taylor b. Henderson	1			
C. J. B. Leader, c. Taylor b. Henderson	1			
C. J. B. Leader, c. Taylor b. Henderson	1			
C. J. B. Leader, c. Taylor b. Henderson	1			
C. J. B. Leader, c. Taylor b. Henderson	1			

Total: 125

Fall of Wickets: 1-9, 2-19, 3-19, 4-20, 5-70, 6-103, 7-117, 8-125, 9-125, 10-135.

Bowling Analysis				
Henderson	10	4	40	5
Gee	10	4	40	5
C. J. B. Leader	10	4	40	5
C. J. B. Leader	10	4	40	5
C. J. B. Leader	10	4	40	5
C. J. B. Leader	10	4	40	5
C. J. B. Leader	10	4	40	5
C. J. B. Leader	10	4	40	5
C. J. B. Leader	10	4	40	5
C. J. B. Leader	10	4	40	5

Combined RAF & Navy

A. Taylor, b. Stanton 54 | | | |

A. Taylor, b. Stanton 54 | | | |

A. Taylor, b. Stanton 54 | | | |

A. Taylor, b. Stanton 54 | | | |

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A. Taylor, b. Stanton 54 | | | |

NOTICE

THE HONG KONG
JOCKEY CLUB

The Programme and Entry Forms for the 5th Race Meeting 1955/56 to be held on Saturday, 14th January, 1956, (weather permitting) may be obtained at the Secretary's Office, Alexandra House; the Club House, Happy Valley; and the Stables, Shan Kwong Road.

Entries close at 12 o'clock NOON on Wednesday, 4th January, 1956.

By Order of the Stewards,
A. E. ARNOLD,
Secretary.

Sports Diary

TODAY

HK Amateur Boxing Assn. Committee Meeting, Mission to Seamen, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

Meeting Executive Committee Meeting at Education Department, 5.30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Senior Challenge Shield Kowloon v. Kitchener (CH), 3.30 p.m.; Eastern v. Sing Tao (HK), 3.30 p.m.

Junior Challenge Shield Tung Wah v. Eastern (CH), 2.30 p.m.; Sing Tao v. B. & S. (Navy), 2.15 p.m.

Ladies' League Services HC v. KGV "B" (BS) 2.15 p.m.; KGV "A" v. Grenville (KP) 2.30 p.m.; CCC v. Portlaoine "A" 3.15 p.m.; Victoria v. Recreio (HV) 4 p.m.

2nd Division: Army "N" v. DBL, KCC "A" v. Recreio, KGV v. Army "B", Navy v. University "B", Police v. IAF, University "A" v. H.C.

Closing date for school children's Badminton Championships.

Stock arriving shortly—

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THE GAMBOLS

By Barry Appleby



So Tender and Tasty

FRANCIS MILLER'S

GREAT NORTHERN

FANCY RED SOCKEYE

SALMON STEAK

ROAD RACE WINNERS



Alan Smith (left), second, Bruce Tulloh (centre), the winner, and Tso Shiu-pun (right), third in the Annual New Year Day Road Race in Kowloon. Tulloh, who won in 33 minutes 8 seconds, was one minute short of Peter West's record, but the course followed was not the same one as in previous years.—China Mail Photo.

Olympic Year Is With Us Once Again

London. As the bells chimed in the new year, it is a safe guess there were many thousands of sportsmen and sportswomen the world over thinking on sport in 1956 and more particularly, the Olympic Games.

They will be wondering what the coming year has in store for them. The Champions will be looking to fresh conquests, Gold medals and new records. The coming men and women will have as their chief aim a trip to Melbourne, Cortina or Stockholm not only for the fun of the thing but for the honour and glory prized above all of having represented their country in the Olympics.

For those whose duty it has been to organise these games, there will be hopes and prayers that everything will go off smoothly and add to their national and personal prestige. After months and even years of hard work they will taste the fruits of their labours. They trust they will be sweet.

The "bad" old year, as it is often called, has been like all "odd" years of little import. It is the "even" years in which the Olympics Games, the World Soccer Championships, the European track and field Championships and the Empire Games are held that usually take all the glamour.

EXCEPTIONS

There are exceptions, of course, but 1955 will not mean a very great deal to most sportsmen and teams. Probably all those that have done well are looking forward to doing even better in 1956 and hoping that they will not have finally to look upon 1955 as having been the peak year of their success.

The past year has certainly seen the rise of several prominent athletes, both men and women. None from a national

point of view can look back upon the past year with more pride than the Russians and Hungarians who have considerably enhanced their prestige in various sports the world over.

The question arises: will they nominate the Melbourne Olympics or will the men and women from the United States and other nations bar their path to victory? What is quite clear is that the Russians, Hungarians and other Iron Curtain countries are going to make a bid as never before to capture as many titles as possible. With them it is a matter of national prestige. Victory means supremacy of the East over the West. Defeat means—well, defeat. They would hardly admit Western supremacy even in sport.

In Helsinki, all they got was one Gold medal and three Bronze—all of them in field events. They had no runner of any note. They will be bitterly disappointed if they do no better at Melbourne, especially in view of the preparations they have made. Alone of competing nations have they sent out a team to spy out the land. Their

three track middle-distance men have just been to Melbourne to sample the weather, the climate, the food and the conditions generally.

WISER POLICY

British runners could have gone but they decided on a visit to Trinidad in February instead. There is no prize in guessing which was the wiser policy. The Hungarians are not expected to "cut much ice" in the Winter Olympics, but the Russians will.

They will be challenging at Cortina at the end of this month the supremacy of the Finns and Scandinavia nations in the Nordic skiing events and speed skating and the North American countries in ice-hockey. As yet they are without figure skaters and they are not likely to be any threat to the Austrians, Swiss, Italians and French in the Alpine skiing events.

It will be interesting to see how the Russians and Hungarians perform in the Equestrian events in Stockholm against the strong British, Mexican, Italian and German teams. Though they are little real guide to the Olympic three-day and show jumping contests, the Equestrian event in the World Modern Pentathlon Championships this year showed the Hungarians and Russians to have some fine horsemen. The former always have been great riders.

What will one be writing this time next year? If only one could look into the crystal ball and see. That there will be shocks and surprises seems certain but it is equally sure that many new world records in many sports will have been written in the history books.—China Mail Special.

Boxing Promoters Protest Over Title Fight Delay

Berlin, Jan. 2. West Berlin boxing promoters Joachim Goettewitz and Walter Engler have protested to the European Boxing Union against the delay in staging the European Heavyweight title fight between Franco Cavicchi, Italy's holder, and Heinz Neuhans, who lost the title to Cavicchi.

A few days ago the Italian promoter, Carlo Levi Della Vida, announced the fight could not take place on January 29, but would be held in Bologna in May.

Now the West German promoters say that if Della Vida cannot promise the match, the offer of another Italian promoter unnamed should be accepted, if he is unable to put on the fight by mid-March as laid down. He should say so within 10 days and give the Berlin promoters a chance.—China Mail Special.

Sparring Partners Meet For British Empire Heavyweight Title

By ARCHIE QUICK

Don Cockell and Jack Gardner are due to meet early in 1956 for the Heavyweight Championship of Great Britain and the British Empire. They are stablemates in that they are both managed by Mr John Simpson, but on this occasion he will remain neutral. Cockell will train at Eastbourne and Gardner at Market Harborough.

"They have sparred hundreds of rounds together," said Mr Simpson, "but with Cockell's Championship at stake this will be a real fight."

Promoter Jack Solomons is not so sure. He has in mind the poor showing of a sadly overweight Gardner in his last fight, and also the feeling that Cockell may be resigned to the fact that this is his last contest. He is going to see that both of them are fighting fit by having them weighed beforehand.

Gardner and Cockell, and come to that, Johnny Williams England's No 3 Heavyweight, and Mr Simpson himself seem more concerned about their respective forms than boxing. What an extraordinary position when the prize is the Heavyweight Championship, and how some of the previous illustrious holders of the title must be amazed at the lack of interest of the present generation of fighters.

It is, however, just that lack of interest which can be the war for the bunch of young Heavyweights who are on the way up. As I see it the pick of them are Joe Erskine of Cardiff, Brian London of West Hartlepool, and Dick Richardson, another Welshman who lives in London. Although there are also the Cooper brothers and Ted Bates of Sheffield I think those three will come to the top.

FIRST CHANCE

Erskine will probably succeed to the title first simply because he will get the first chance, but somehow I feel the final issue will be between London and Richardson. These two have the "killer" instinct to a greater degree than any of the others.

London's father, Jack, a former Heavyweight Champion, was in London the other day. He is his son's manager and trainer. It is not his present intention to bring the boy to London for fights yet while he is working out a schedule with a Hartlepool promoter which will give Brian a series of fights in the north coast before he ever appears in the Metropolis. "One thing that is not going to happen," says ring-wise Jack, "he is not going to go before he is fit for a title fight. At least, year."

Over the many post-war years that Jack Solomons has been banging the big drum of boxing promotion with super tournaments at the big arenas of Harringay, Earls Court and the White City, the small promoters have been carrying on in the provinces and the lesser London halls.

Johnny Best in Liverpool, Alex Jacobs in Leicester, Joe Griffiths in Birmingham, Reg King in Nottingham, Bert Singleton at Newcastle and Stanley Baker at Streatham have been proving the not so ambitious shows all the time, providing the new talent which is the life blood of the game.

But now the supply is drying up and boxing is under a cloud. Mr Solomons talks of getting out of the business, and practically every British Champion, from Don Cockell to Dan Dover, has met with unexpected setbacks. The double overthrow of Bananweights Robert Cohen and Peter Keenan, plus the unspectacular showing of Heavyweight challenger Jack Gardner against a Friendly Islander, has indeed thrown the cat among the promotion pigeons.

LEADING MANAGER

Mr Jacobs told me that he could not get attractive top-liners at Leicester because most of the stars were under contract to Mr Solomons, but there is one promoter who is optimistic—Harry Levene. A leading manager in the years between the wars and night club proprietor since, this fast-talking Londoner sees a break in the clouds not apparent to other people.

Mr Levene has just completed a tour of the United States, where he has been surveying the American boxing scene and making contacts. He has an option on the Royal Albert Hall, London, for a series of tournaments and he says: "Even if

CLASSIFICATION LIST CHANGES

The following alterations to the Classification List were announced by the Hongkong Jockey Club last night:

To Class 2—Gabriel Junka, Johnner, Knockdown, New Jersey, all from Class 1; Resurrection from Class 3.

To Class 4—Easy Money from Class 3; Quicksilver, Sunstroke and Winning Touch, all from Class 6.

To Class 7—Cornhill from Class 9; May Blossom and Thundersing Day, both from Class 8.

To Class 8—Cursey and Mourns, both from Class 5.

Mr Solomons is going out of business, I am coming in stronger than ever. The show I held at the Royal Albert Hall last winter proved to me that there is still a public for the medium-priced shows.

Entertainment Tax is the bugbear but if boxers and their managers will only be reasonable and not make outrageous purse demands I think there is a living for all of us, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and good entertainment for the paying public."

Mr Levene had just delivered himself of this belief when another British hope crashed. We were at West Ham baths watching the young Lancashire lightweight Johnny Butterworth, and this lad from Gracie Field's home town dropped a points decision to a comparatively unknown Algerian, who came in only as a last-minute substitute for Dave Charnley.

JAMES PARK SPOTLIGHTS

3-YEAR-OLDS FOR 1956

Dilettante Looks A Class Filly For The Oaks

The fillies never create as much interest as the colts for the simple reason that, as a trainer put it, "they can be such a nuisance." One can never be sure how they will develop and, once they have lost their form, they seldom come back.

Perhaps the most brilliant filly during the war was Sun Chariot but she gave audiences trouble at home up to the late summer in each of the two seasons she was in training. After that she was quite tractable.

Star of India seems to be one of the sensible sort. She never put a foot wrong and she has only to continue in that vein to become a Champion sprinter.

Next in order of merit comes the Irish filly, Sarissa. It is no surprise that neither Star of India nor Sarissa has any classic engagements next year. They are of a similar pattern. Speed is written all over their pedigree.

They are among the few unbeaten fillies of their age. The only time Sarissa ran in England was at Doncaster in St Leger week. She simply toyed with the speedy Vigo. He is a very fast colt but he could not get Sarissa off the bit.

EDMUNDO'S EQUAL

Vigo set off in his usual style. The Irish filly raced in close company without the slightest effort. When given a bit of rein after half a mile Sarissa made Vigo look very ordinary.

It was a most impressive performance and at that time I thought Sarissa would beat any two-year-old in training, irrespective of sex, with the exception of Star of India.

Mr Geoffrey Freer has acknowledged Sarissa as being the equal of Edmundo at weight-for-age. The filly has been a good advertisement for his agency, seeing that she is one of his first crop. The sire was no in that connection that I expect him to make a name for himself at the stud.

Sarissa is a charming filly with a daisy-cutting action. She never seems to lift her feet off the ground and that type never stays. She is very quick in her action and, if all goes well with her, she will make a smart sprinter.

Next in the list is Le Fresnes. A lightly-framed filly, the most was made of her opportunities in her first season. She had some hard racing but is very game. On more than one occasion she showed courage of the highest order.

At a Court Martial filly La Fresnes will have stamina limitations. She may stay a mile but no more. I should think she will be trained for the 1,000 Guineas. After that race Stanley House hopes will rest on Dilettante for the Oaks. I have no doubt at all about that.

DIFFERENT

The official estimate places La Fresnes 5lb. above Dilettante but when it comes to something in excess of a mile there will be a different story to tell. I do not think we should pay much attention to the two-year-old running of Dilettante. She was never seriously trained and was given every chance to develop in her own time. She had done nothing in the way of strong work when she made a first appearance at Hunt Park in May.

In her only other outing Dilettante ran a dead-heat with Dentate at York. The form as it stands does not make Dilettante anything out of the ordinary, but no filly of her age made such a good impression on my mind last year.

She is a striking individual with all the qualities one looks for in the high-class thoroughbred of either sex. She has speed, power, depth and balance. If Dilettante is not a racehorse it is of no use looking at them in the paddock.

I know to my cost they do not always live up to their appearance, but I have a feeling Lord Derby's filly will not let me down.

NO FLAW

There is no flaw on either side of her pedigree. By Dante, she is out of that good mare, Herringbone, who won the substitute 1,000 Guineas and St Leger during the war.

A half-sister to Entente Cordiale, I shall be surprised if Dilettante does not take higher rank.

I appreciate that the Bousac filly, Apollonia, may be the best filly in Europe, but if she was not in the Oaks I should be quite happy to have an interest in Dilettante.

(COPYRIGHT)

Red China To Participate In Olympics

Paris, Jan. 2. Peking Radio, tonight confirmed that Communist China was preparing to take part in the 16th Olympic Games at Melbourne.

This confirmation was contained in a New Year's message, given by Mr Tsai Shu-fan, Vice-Chairman of the Physical Culture and Sports Commission, to all sportsmen in the country.

Mr Tsai was quoted by the radio as saying that athletes throughout the country should improve their prowess for "participation in the 16th Olympiad on behalf of the People's Republic of China."

He claimed that in 1955 many athletes had bettered existing national records and some had reached international levels.—France-Press.

Coaching Job For Victor Barna In New Delhi

London, Jan. 2. Former World table tennis Champion Victor Barna, accompanied by his wife, Sura, will leave here next Thursday by air for New Delhi to take up his coaching assignment with the Indian Table Tennis Federation.

Barna is to direct training for the Indian team competing in the Berylthine and Corbillion Cups for the World Championship at Tokyo in April.

He will coach in New Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, and then go on to Japan.—France-Press.

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OLYMPIC ASPIRANT



Wendy Mills, aged 13, of Twickenham, who has been skating since she was five, and who competed in the Swiss junior international ice skating Championships. Her ambition is to be a member of the British Olympic ice-skating team. — Central Press Photo.

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MOZART BICENTENARY YEAR

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HELICOPTER IS NORTH NORWAY'S
AMBULANCE
Rescue Service
Operated By
Air Force

Oslo, Jan. 2.

The Norwegian Air Force rescue service, intended and designed to rescue pilots and other airmen who have had to bale out over the sea or in the hills, has gradually become a vital part of the civilian rescue system and has saved the lives of many mountain dwellers and farmers living in isolated districts.

Since helicopters were put into service in this branch of the Air Force, too, their importance as a civilian air ambulance service has increased. It is now felt that even more of these hovering aircraft are needed, particularly in the wider districts of North Norway.

Since World War II, the Air Force has carried out over 800 rescue flights in North Norway alone, saving civilian pilots and airmen from isolated places to hospital or to receive medical attention in the towns.

With ordinary aircraft, however, there is often great difficulty in finding suitable landing places or in flying through storms and other unfavourable weather conditions. In the past year, the helicopter has played an invaluable part in North Norway in the rescue of civilians, when all other means of transport, car, boat, or ordinary aircraft, have failed.

Civilian Flights

In the past 15 months, two helicopters have been permanently stationed at Bodø airfield, in North Norway. They have carried out 35 civilian ambulance flights, bringing injured or seriously ill persons to vitally necessary medical attention.

On only one occasion have they had to give up the task owing to adverse weather or landing conditions. The helicopters are called upon only when all other methods of transport have had to give up.

North Norway is a huge, sparsely populated area, all of it north of the Arctic Circle and much of it wild, mountainous and inaccessible.

There are very few roads, some fishing harbours and islands which can only be reached by boat and all of it covered by snow and ice in the long dark winter months.

Carry Mechanic

At Bodø airfield, two Bell 47 type helicopters have been stationed since 1954. Their primary task, of course, is the rescue of airmen and pilots who might have to parachute from their aircraft over sea or land.

For sea rescues, they are equipped with a special rescue "basket" which can be lowered over the water if the sea is too rough to allow the helicopter to alight.

In addition to the pilot, each helicopter carries a mechanic, who is also equipped with frost-proof clothing and apparatus, so that he can dive into the sea to rescue a pilot who is too exhausted to help himself.

The rescue "baskets" are heated by hot air conveyed through a hosepipe from the helicopter's engine. They can

also be used for rescuing sailors from shipwrecked vessels.

But in the wild territory of North Norway, the helicopter men are more often sent on inland civilian operations.

As soon as an accident is reported or a message is received of a patient needing urgent transport, the helicopter can be in the air within minutes, equipped with all kinds of rescue material, stretchers, first-aid equipment, etc.

Welcome Task

They can land in a valley or on a mountain plateau, the tiniest field or flat space is sufficient.

In the darkness, only a couple of pocket torches are needed as landing lights. The Bodø airfield helicopter have fetched sick men, women and children from isolated mountain farms and from tiny islands far out in the archipelago.

They are taken direct to the door of the nearest hospital, thus making all other transport unnecessary.

They have also taken part in searches for persons lost or missing in the mountains. The helicopter crews are just as happy to rescue civilians as military personnel. They welcome every task which brings them action after perhaps days or weeks of boring, inactive, waiting and standing by. Only one thing they dread: fetching expectant mothers.

None of them is keen to act as a midwife during the flight and they always ask for a doctor or midwife to accompany them on such a mission. So far, it is reported, no babies have been born in the North Norway Air Force helicopters.

The local population, particularly in the isolated northern districts, has come to rely upon the Air Force boys. But it is felt in many quarters that the need is greater in the North than in other parts of Norway.

So Difficult

At present, the Norwegian Air Force has eight Bell 47 helicopters available for rescue services. The four district Air Commands, North, South, East and West, have each been allotted two machines.

Northern Command feels, however, that its area is so large and communications there so difficult that it should have six rescue helicopters stationed at three different places spaced out over the three Northern counties.—China Mail Special.

Boxer, Bride—Both Deaf-And-Dumb



Pictured during their wedding ceremony at Florence are Italy's Mario D'Amato, European heavyweight boxing champion, and Miss Liana Bacci. The couple, childhood sweethearts, are both deaf-and-dumb, have been since birth.—Express Photo.

Build Atom
Ship
Appeal

Washington, Jan. 2.
Republican Representative Mr. Thor C. Tollefson, Washington State, made public today a letter he had sent to President Dwight Eisenhower asking him to support a proposed law authorizing the immediate construction of an atomic-driven merchant ship.

A bill to this effect was approved last year by the House of Representatives, but the Senate did not vote on the bill.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the American Government intends to ask for credits to build an atomic-driven cruiser which will be used to launch guided missiles.—France-Press.

Grotewohl
Reports On
China Tour

Berlin, Jan. 2.
The East German Cabinet met today to receive the report of Herr Otto Grotewohl, the Prime Minister, on his recent tour of China, North Korea and Outer Mongolia.

The Prime Minister's press office said the Cabinet decided to forward the treaty of friendship with China signed at Peking on Christmas Day to Parliament for early ratification.—Reuter.

Plot Foiled
By Guatemalan
Government

Guatemala City, Jan. 2.
The Guatemalan Government today confirmed the capture and arrest within the last 48 hours of numerous persons implicated in a plot to overthrow the regime.

The police have been particularly active in the La Aurora district. The figure "87" has been chalked up on the walls of Guatemala City in the last few days, presumably by sympathizers of Lionel Sison, who failed to get himself elected to the City Council in recent elections.

His supporters declared that the count was faked and that in fact Sison had 87 votes more than the official candidate.—France-Press.

SALVATION ARMY
TEACHES BLIND
HOW TO FARM

Kolanya, North Kenya, Jan. 2.

The Salvation Army here is engaged on what it describes as a unique experiment—teaching blind Africans to become self-supporting peasant farmers.

In five months, 12 pupils, all blind from birth and all classed as incurable by an eye specialist, have brought an eight-acre farm here under cultivation. They have cleared the weeds and planted out crops of cotton, cassava, vegetables, napier grass and banana trees.

The school, run by Senior Captain Arthur Holland, from Tyldesly, near Manchester, is believed to be the only one of its kind in the world.

One of the driving ideas behind its inception is the belief that in Kenya, and in the whole of Africa, it is more important to teach blind people to be self-supporting on the land rather than to become, say, telephone or lift operators.

£1,000 Promised

So far, the British Empire Society for the Blind has promised nearly £1,000 for the first two years of the experiment.

Captain Holland, who with his wife, has been in Kenya about nine years, believes that his blind farmers will be able to look after cattle when they have completed their one-year course, although this may have to be extended. Instruction in milking is already on the curriculum.

That is why the farm is now concentrating on growing more napier grass, for this is excellent for stall-feeding, which is turn would solve many of the difficulties facing a blind cattle owner.

The Kenya Government, with money provided under the Swynnerton Plan, to help African farmers, is to give a cattle shed and water tank. Two "docile cows" may be provided by the Veterinary Department, and it is hoped that local Africans will give each blind farmer a cow when he leaves the school.

Working by a fine sense of touch and an almost uncanny ability to estimate distances between rows of produce, the pupils learn to plant down weeds and plant neat rows of cotton and vegetables.

Becoming Expert

Their dexterity is surprising. Here is young Remajio, planting beans in the garden under a scorching sun. He measures out the spacing between plants with a short stick, keeping the line straight by a hand string.

His movements are not made much slower as a result of his blindness.

Inside, one may see Andrea Nakoka, who is fast becoming an expert rug maker. None of the 12 pupils can read or write, but the blind African instructor, Ellisha Ayeko, is a fluent Braille reader of English and Swahili. He is also a good weaver and basket maker.

This Luo tribesman, a sergeant with the 51st Battalion, the East African Engineers, was blinded by a grenade when serving in Burma in World War II.

"At first the men were not very pleased when they came here," Captain Holland told me. "They thought that they were going to have to learn Braille, but they have since come to appreciate the importance of planned agriculture." The benefits which the men derive from their training are evident: in five months, they have grown 150 lbs of vegetables on the farm, which provides for their own needs and they receive two shillings a week pocket money.—China Mail Special.

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



FERD'NAND

By Mik



NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

Britain Faces Big Wage Bill

For 1956
ABOUT 20 PER CENT
UP IF PRESENT
CLAIMS MET

From Our Economic Correspondent

London, Jan. 2.

With the claim for a 15 per cent wage increase just put forward by the three million engineering workers the total amount of wage increases now under consideration in Britain at the outset of 1956 is estimated at £500 million a year.

In the first 11 months of 1955 wage increases amounted to about £250 million a year, but the addition to industry's wage bill, including overtime, was an estimated £400 million.

If, therefore, the wage increases under consideration at the start of the new year are met in full they will exceed the actual increases in 1955 by about 20 per cent.

The engineering and shipbuilding industries alone are confronted by the prospect of an additional bill of £250 million a year for wages. This is the amount it is estimated the industry would have to pay out if the present and prospective claims by its employees are fully conceded.

Similar Claims

The 15 per cent claimed by the three million engineering workers represented in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions is expected to be followed by similar claims from the 250,000 shipbuilding workers. Altogether these would cost £150 million a year. But engineering employers also face demands for higher pay for 400,000 women workers and 500,000 staff workers as well as for higher overtime, night work and Sunday rates. And these could cost up to another £100 million.

In addition to the engineering unions' claims there have been bids for higher pay by workers in all the other key industries. One million building workers have put in a claim which would cost £60 million a year; 700,000 miners want an additional £30 million a year; the railway unions are claiming a similar amount; 750,000 shop workers are to get a raise costing £15 million a year; and 200,000 cotton operatives are preparing a demand for £10 million a year more. The list could be extended. Farm workers, chemical workers and dockers are among other large groups bidding for higher pay. Firemen, cinema and theatre workers, telephonists and employees in other smaller industries and trades bring the total number wanting more money to 7½ million.

The Force

The force behind this spate of wage claims is quite simply the rising cost of living. Figures published by the Ministry of Labour last week show that wages and prices have both risen by 54 per cent since the middle of 1947. But the significant thing is that prices have now caught up with the rise of wages after nine months in which they lagged behind.

Some of the further rise of prices between mid-October and mid-November is accounted for by the purchase tax increases in the autumn budget. But there were also increases in the price of a number of foodstuffs and other commodities entering into the day-to-day cost of living, which were not affected by the budget.

Nevertheless, the budget has accelerated the present round of wage claims. Some unions have made no attempt to disguise this. The engineering unions, for example, originally claimed a 10 per cent increase. Last week, however, they submitted that the effect of the budget justified a 15 per cent pay increase.

Attitude Stiffened

There are signs that some of the other big unions have stiffened their attitude since the budget. Union leaders who recently counseled moderation in wage claims are now finding it difficult to resist the pressure from the more militant element among their followers.

London, Jan. 2.

Arguments against granting wage increases still hold good, but they are losing some of their force. Britain appears to be in less danger of pricing itself out of the world markets now that her chief competitors are up against a full employment problem.

And the argument that wage increases will be followed by price increases which inevitably follow is becoming a little tedious with repetition. Everyone would be happy if the wage-price spiral could be halted, but they would naturally like the other fellow to make the first move. And so far neither workers nor employers have shown much willingness to do this.

Political Test

Seeking a way out of this dilemma will be the biggest political test that the new Minister of Labour, Mr. Ian Macleod, and the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Harold Macmillan, are ever likely to face.—London Express Service.

DIVIDENDS
SET NEW
HIGH

New York, Jan. 2.
American Corporations distributed a record breaking total of \$11,000,000,000 in cash dividends in 1955, establishing a new all-time peak.

This compared with \$10,000,000,000 in 1954 and with \$6,823,000,000 paid in 1953.

General Motors Corp. led all companies with a cash payment for the year of \$689,955,406, the highest dividends ever paid in American corporate history.

Aircraft, amusement, automobile, building, chemical, electrical equipment, machinery and metals, paper, petroleum and rubber, steel, utility, shipbuilding and miscellaneous business companies increased payments. Stock dividends were distributed in volume.

Of the 1,538 issues listed on the New York Stock Exchange, dividends were paid on 1,403, involving 985 common and 438 preferred stocks. These aggregated \$7,691,461,000, a record. In 1954 dividends of \$6,806,627,000 were paid on 984 common and 436 preferred stocks.

American Telephone with payments of \$488,010,000, ranked second in this year's big payers, followed by Standard Oil Co. (NJ) with payout of \$344,842,400, and Du Pont next with \$310,850,000.—United Press.

LONDON SILVER PRICES

London, Jan. 2.
The price of silver was quoted today at 78½ pence per the ounce for spot and 78½ pence for forward (against 78½ and 78½ pence previously).—United Press.

HONGKONG
STOCK
EXCHANGE

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Hongkong Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$180,000. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

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Review Of London
Stock Market
For Last Year

By C. T. Hallinan

London, Jan. 2.

Here endeth 1955—not a very good year. Not like 1953 and 1954 in which the market values of British industrial moved steadily upward with only minor corrections.

1955 has been a year of great instability. The Financial Times index of some 30 leading industrial shares started the year at 184.2, then an all-time high, and rose another seven per cent to another all-time high, in February, of 197.5, (tumbled some 20 points in about a fortnight to 177.0, milled around undecidedly and then started upwards, reaching on July 21 its all-time high of 223.9, whereafter fresh troubles and finally in December a slow recovery to 200.4, about halfway between the year high and its low.

Market Leaders

The country's enemy is inflation—opinion seems unanimous on this—but investors apparently refuse to admit that the prices of attractive shares can reflect inflationary forces as much as the prices of food.

Shipbuilding shares and copper shares have eclipsed all others by rising 30 per cent during the year; copper shares actually had risen 51 per cent in September but failed to hold it. Shipbuilding shares—with companies books full for the next four or five years—are still the unquestioned leader of the bull market.

Oil was strong with British Petroleum perhaps the star attraction. The whole group had gained 36 per cent at the July peak and still retained a rise of 25 per cent at the close. Radio, aircraft and engineering shares also retained fair proportions of their gains.

Several groups did badly indeed. Motor shares, after rising some 32 per cent by July, closed the year with a net loss of five per cent reflecting the restrictions on hire purchase sales, rising competition overseas and rising domestic costs. On the other hand, textile shares closed with a net loss on the year of only six per cent despite the unwavering pessimism.

Volatile Year

In short, a very volatile year though it seems to reflect no excessive confidence in the outlook for 1956.

Over the past year investors turned to drift out of British government stocks. The Financial Times index of government securities started the year at 103.25 but the rise in bank rate initiated steady selling which by September 5 had carried the index to 87.05, the lowest even since 1926. It closed last week at 90.08, a net fall in the year of 12 per cent.

Foreign bonds were, on the whole, eccentric. The non-assented Dawes Loan, closing at 110 sterling, showed a net gain of only 7 sterling on the 12 months whereas the non-assented Young Loan, closing at 108 sterling, showed a rise of 30 sterling; the assented Dawes Loan, closing at 78 sterling, was unchanged from a year ago while the Young Loan assented showed a net gain of 17 sterling at 845 and 225 sterling, respectively.

Japs Demanded

Japanese enjoyed increasing demand. Tokyo Electric 10 per cent bonds, non-assented, opened the year at 218 sterling and closed at 276 while the assented swept up from 157 sterling to 195 sterling.

Similarly the popular 1939s opened at 193 sterling and closed at 249 for the non-assented while the assented rose from 139 to 186 sterling. A lot of progress for such expensive securities.—United Press.

London Foreign Exchange

London, Jan. 2.
Foreign exchange rates closed today as follows:

New York \$1.00 = 2.82 1/2

Paris 100 francs = 16.48 1/2

Switzerland 100 francs = 20.48 1/2

Belgium 100 francs = 20.48 1/2

Netherlands 100 guilders = 20.48 1/2

Denmark 100 kroner = 16.48 1/2

Sweden 100 kronor = 16.48 1/2

Finland 100 markkaa = 16.48 1/2

Italy 100 lire = 16.48 1/2

Spain 100 pesetas = 16.48 1/2

Portugal 100 escudos = 16.48 1/2

Greece 100 drachmas = 16.48 1/2

Turkey 100 liras = 16.48 1/2

MAGAZINE
PREDICTS
DECLINE

New York, Jan. 2.

Fortune Magazine today predicted a mild business decline this year followed by a business upswing in 1957.

The Magazine roundup said that 1956 will be another "best business year ever," it said the output of goods and services will total \$398,000,000,000 or 2 per cent higher than 1955's \$391,000,000,000.

Fortune said spending already is declining as consumers pay off debts and that business inventories are rising rapidly and heading for a cutback. The Magazine said production "is probably at a peak right now and slight downturn seems inevitable within the next four months."

Should Be Milder

The roundup said the re-adjustment should be milder than that of the 1953-54 "recession" because defence production will not decline this time and tax cuts may be voted for consumers and businessmen.

The report said that after inventories have been lowered and debt repayment tapers off to permit more buying of consumer goods, the stage should be set for the recovery in 1957. The Magazine said the big deciding factor will be in consumer spending for cars, house furnishings, and wearing apparel.—United Press.

World Trade Doubles In 17 Years

United Nations, Jan. 2.

The volume of world trade increased by about 51 per cent between 1937 and 1954 while the average price of goods exchanged increased by 118 per cent, according to the annual international trade statistics issued today by the United Nations.

The result of these two increases was seen in the fact that the value of exchanges in 1954 was almost triple that of 1937. The statistics do not include exports and imports of the Communist countries.

Exports from the highly-industrialized countries—the United States, Western Europe and Japan—contributed considerably to the increase in volume but less to that of prices. A big proportion of the exports from these countries is now reserved for under-developed Far Eastern countries.

Far Eastern countries showed the smallest increase with 65 per cent.—France-Press.

BRITISH STEEL PRODUCTION

London, Jan. 2.

British steel production was estimated at approximately 10,800,000 tons in 1955 and industry hopes to reach an output of 21,000,000 tons in 1956, the British Iron and Steel Federation declared today.

The British iron and steel industry, the Federation pointed out, has continuously expanded during the past 10 years. During this period, production has increased by two-thirds. Five tons are now manufactured for each three tons produced in 1945.—France-Press.

Exchange Rates

London, Jan. 2.
Exchange rates closed today as follows:

New York \$1.00 = 2.82 1/2

Paris 100 francs = 16.48 1/2

Switzerland 100 francs = 20.48 1/2

Belgium 100 francs = 20.48 1/2

Netherlands 100 guilders = 20.48 1/2

Denmark 100 kroner = 16.48 1/2

Sweden 100 kronor = 16.48 1/2

Finland 100 markkaa = 16.48 1/2

Italy 100 lire = 16.48 1/2

Spain 100 pesetas = 16.48 1/2

Markets Closed

London, Jan. 2.

The London rubber market was closed today while markets of wool, pepper and cocoa were also closed. They will reopen tomorrow.

Financial and commodity markets throughout the United States were closed today because of New Year holiday.—United Press.

WEEKLY

NEW YORK

COTTON

MARKET

By William T. Plunkett

New York, Jan. 1.

Cotton futures ended 1955 on a note of steadiness after saw-sawing narrowly in one of the slowest trading periods of the year.

At Friday's close the list ruled 3 points lower to 18 points higher, or 15 cents to up 90 cents a bale compared with the preceding week.

The nearby March contract showed the only loss. Hedge selling and liquidation increased in the spot month whenever the price neared the 34-cent line. A premium of \$1 a bale over the average loan rate at the southern spot markets was believed sufficiently attractive to bring more cotton into a deliverable position.

Continued heavy producer impoundings under the government loan, and a resultant tightening up in the spot cotton brought covering in the May and July deliveries.

Estimate

Statisticians estimated that at the current rate of loan impoundings, government holdings this season might reach 7,000,000 bales, or about half of the current crop prospect. Up to Dec. 28, government holdings of the 1955 crop amounted to 6,177,160 bales.

Uppermost interested centred on the government's special million-bale export programme to get under way on Jan. 8. Many traders waited to see what bids would be acceptable to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Weakness in the nearby deliveries at Liverpool was coupled with the fear that low bids for the government surplus might be accepted. Because of the uncertainty as to how low the CCC will set its selling price, there was quite some guesswork as to how much cotton will be sold overseas during the forepart of the year.

Some commentators claimed the cotton being offered is not a quality desirable in most countries. But other sources believed some of the stock will be sold to Japan, Formosa and Korea.—United Press.

Times Attacks Govt And Opposition

London, Jan. 2.

The Times lashed the New Year today with a severe attack upon both the Government and the Opposition for their "feebleness" in meeting the approaching crisis in 1956.

"Years of prosperity—even though punctuated by recurring financial storms—have made Britain economically flabby. We have used for payment what should have been put to investment. We have lived partly on our capital. Inflation has almost passed on being regarded as a necessary evil to being considered necessary without being thought evil. Today what once seemed a carcase has become a clutch upon our throats."—United Press.

LONDON COPPER AND LEAD

London, Jan. 2.

The copper market was easier while lead and zinc were firm. Prices closed today in sterling per long ton at the end of the unofficial afternoon session as follows:

Copper spot 34 1/2

Copper 1st half Jan. 34 1/2

Copper 2nd half Jan. 34 1/2

Lead spot 115 1/2

Lead 1st half Jan. 115 1/2

Lead 2nd half Jan. 115 1/2

Zinc spot 100 1/2

Zinc 1st half Jan. 100 1/2

Zinc 2nd half Jan. 100 1/2

Singapore (Rubber) 1.50

London Market
Has Active
Trading Day

London, Jan. 2.

Easily the most active spot in the entire city of London today was the stock exchange.

Turnover at 10,764 bargains recorded was excellent for a day which was widely regarded as a semi-holiday.

What stands out is something rather negative—that the well-to-do people are still not at all frightened by the current inflation and the tough treatment they are likely to experience if no effective steps are taken to combat it.

Leading industrials all moved upward by six pence or a shilling especially oils, motors, textiles and tobacco.

Oils Up

British Government stocks were again out of the picture, mostly unchanged but with some down 1/16 sterling.

Royal Dutch jumped 1/8 to £62½, with Burmah up 1/8 to £61½ and Anglo-Egyptian "B" up 1/8 to £61½.

German bonds showed spectacular buying with Young Loan non-assented up 3½ sterling and the assented up 3½ sterling. The Dawes Loan was less active but gained 1 sterling. The two Ger-

man Polish bonds rose 2 sterling. Japanese were not very active; almost the only feature was the fall of 2 sterling in Tokyo 5 per cent to 175 sterling.—United Press.

LONDON TIN MARKET

London, Jan. 2.

The tin market was steady in the official morning session. Spot fell 1/8 to £832½, and three-month rose 1/8 to £841½. Turnover was 120 tons.

In the afternoon unofficial session, the tin market was steady but quiet. Spot was marked up 1/8 to £834½ and three-month 1 point higher to £841½.

Closing prices in sterling per long ton were:

Spot buyers 834

Spot sellers 832½

Three-month buyers 841½

Three-month sellers 841½

—United Press.

